LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

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100% ILLEGAL MANGA

LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

VOLUME 3: RETRIBUTION PT. 1

BY KAZUO KOIKE AND KAZUO KAMIMURA

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY KAZUO KAMIMURA ORIGINAL COVER DESIGN BY G HIGH LLC.

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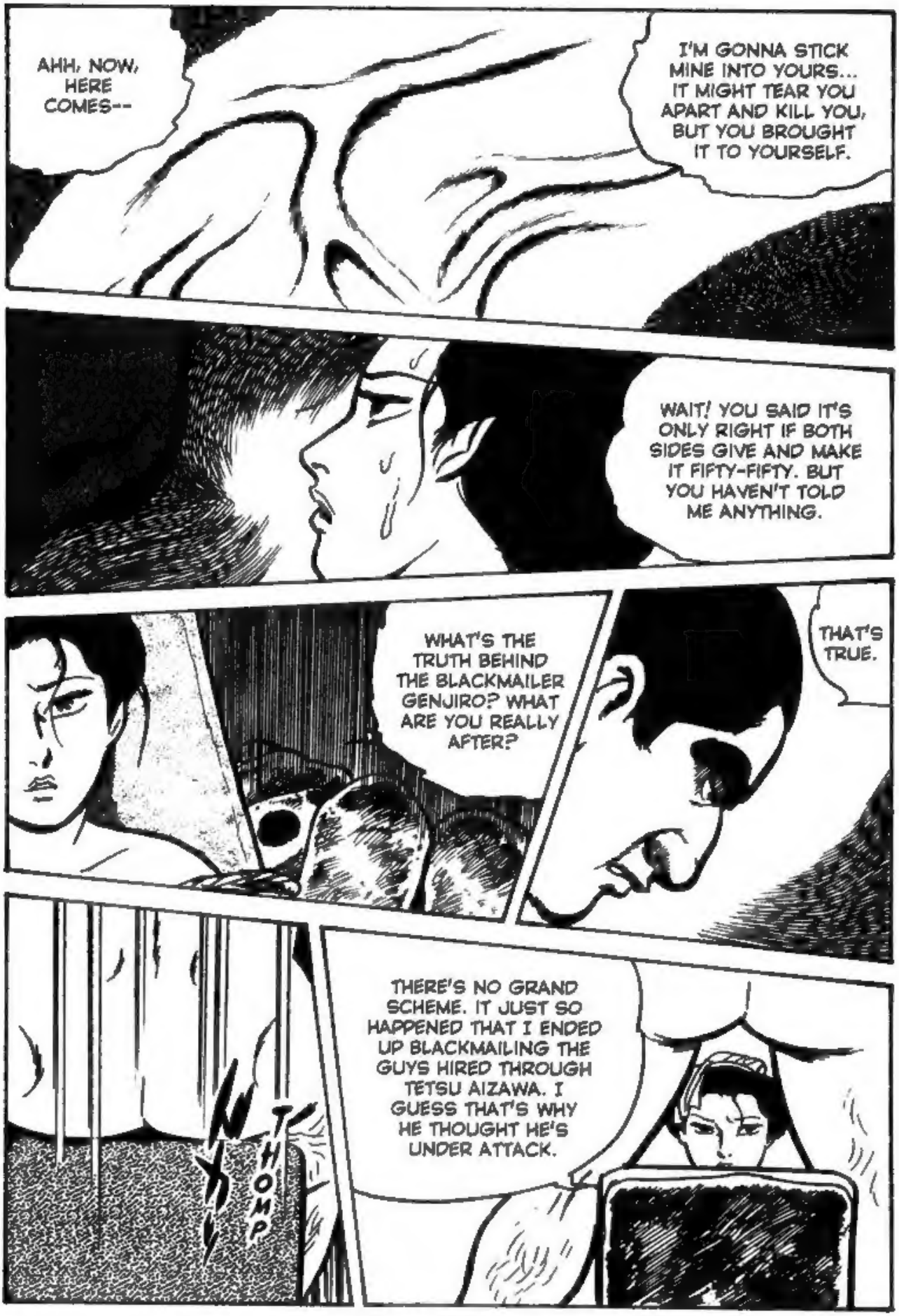
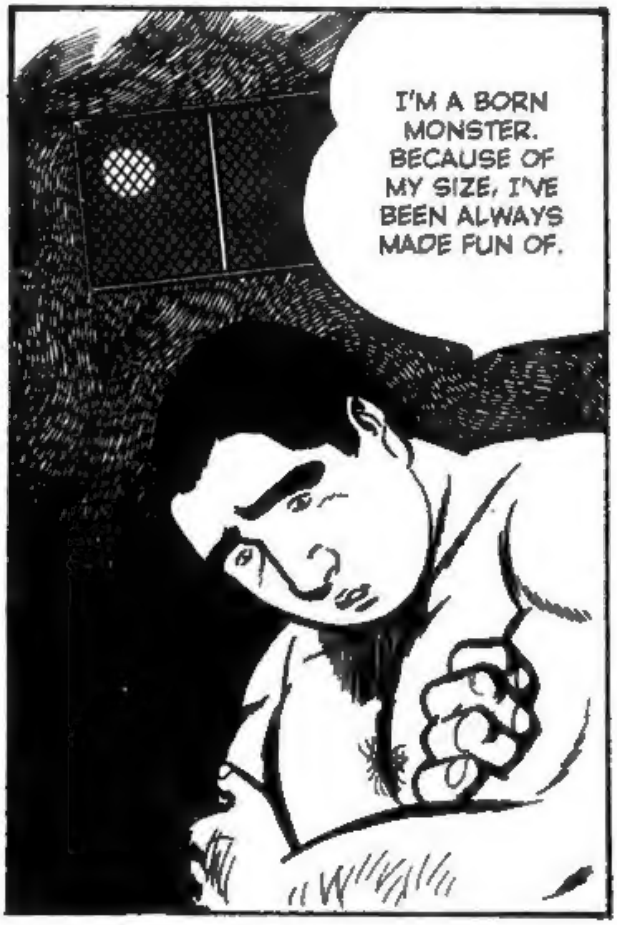
EPISODE 9
BLACKMAILER
GENJIRO AND
THE SONG
OF THE
PHANTOM,
PART 2

I WANNA BE ALL THE WAY INSIDE YOU! JUST THE THOUGHT OF IT MAKES ME DIZZY. HEE HEE HEE.
HEH HEH HEH. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. YOU'RE TRULY BEAUTIFUL, OYUKI.
HOW NICE OF TETSU AIZAWA TO SEND SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO CHECK ME OUT.
Y-YOU KNOW, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL IT DOESN'T MATTER EVEN IF I END UP DEAD IF I COULD JUST DO IT WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU.


AHH, NOW, HERE COMES--
I'M GONNA STICK MINE INTO YOURS... IT MIGHT TEAR YOU APART AND KILL YOU, BUT YOU BROUGHT IT TO YOURSELF.
WAIT! YOU SAID IT'S ONLY RIGHT IF BOTH SIDES GIVE AND MAKE IT FIFTY-FIFTY. BUT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING.
WHAT'S THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BLACKMAILER GENJIRO? WHAT ARE YOU REALLY AFTER?
THAT'S TRUE.
THERE'S NO GRAND SCHEME. IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT I ENDED UP BLACKMAILING THE GUYS HIRED THROUGH TETSU AIZAWA. I GUESS THAT'S WHY HE THOUGHT HE'S UNDER ATTACK.
THOMP

IT FEELS LIKE SHOWING MY DIRTY LAUNDRY, BUT SINCE WE'RE GONNA BE INTIMATE, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

SO I PROMISED MYSELF I'D BE A HORRIBLE THING FOR REAL. I RESOLVED TO BECOME STRONG BY MAKING THE MOST OF MY BIG FRAME. AFTER ALL, I REALIZED THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I COULD LIVE.


I'M A BORN MONSTER. BECAUSE OF MY SIZE, I'VE BEEN ALWAYS MADE FUN OF.

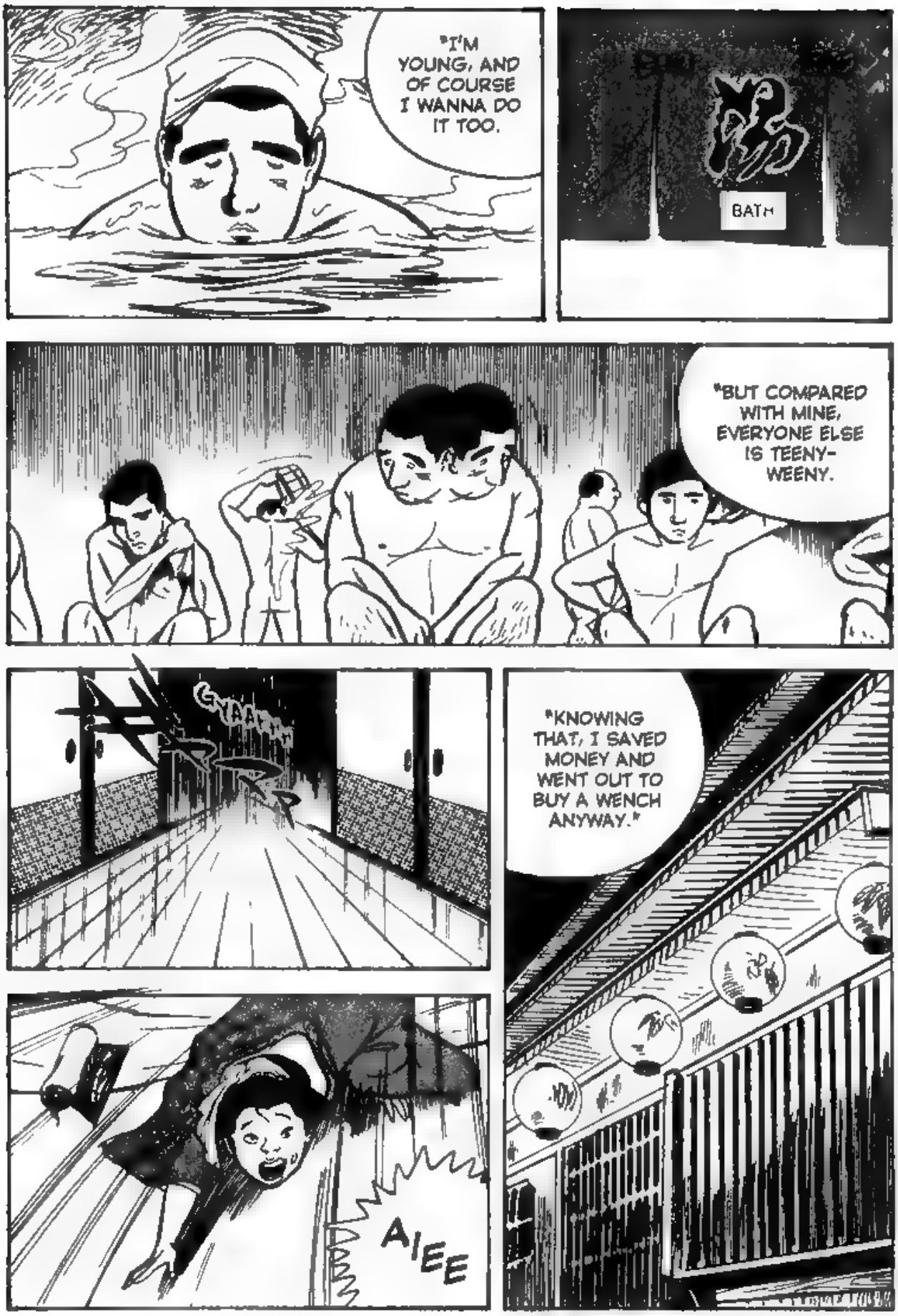
TORYAHHH
HAH!
"FIRST, I TRIED TO LEARN JUDO."

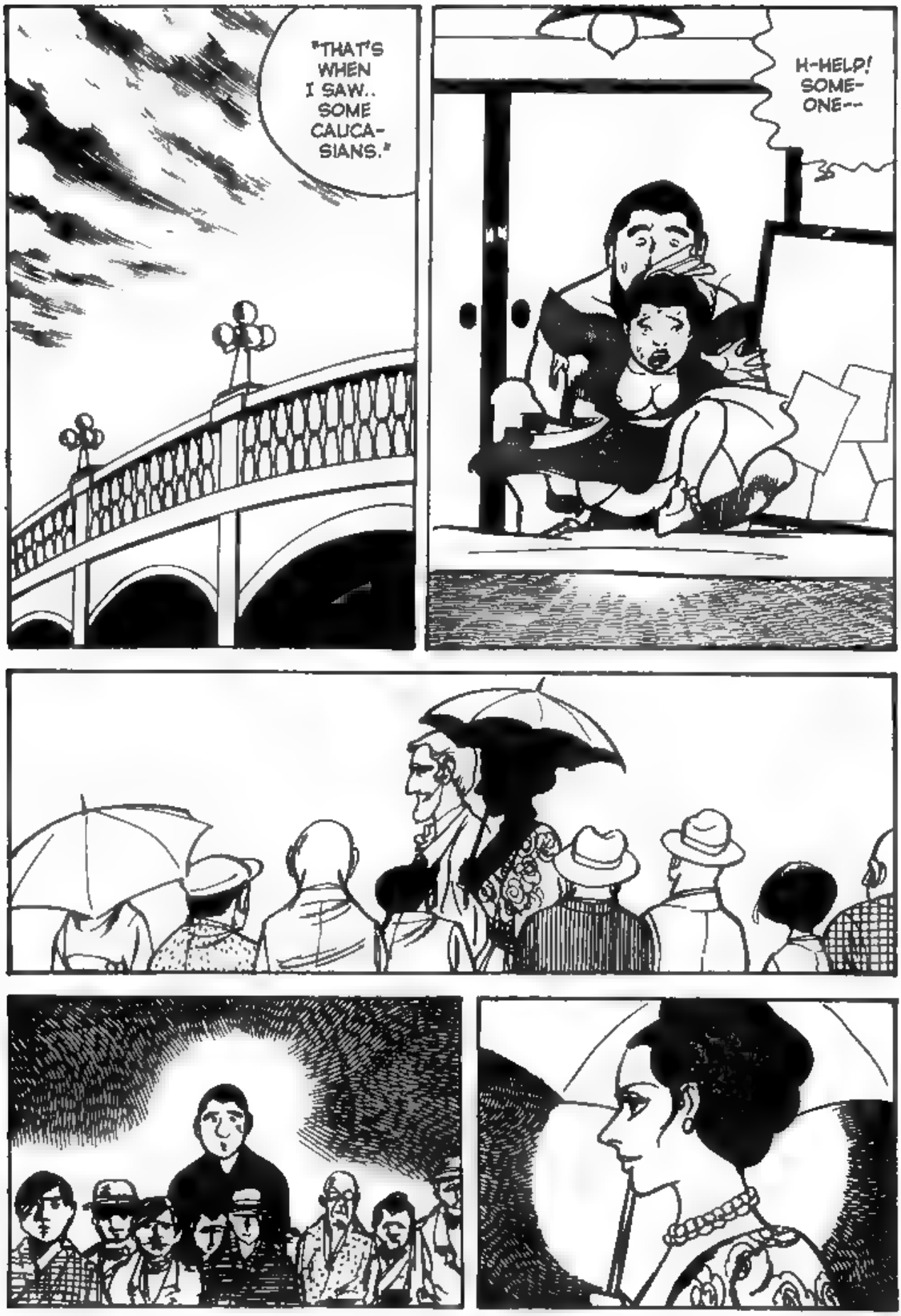
KRA
KRA
KRA
KRA
KOWW
"NO ONE WAS WILLING TO TEACH ME AFTER THAT. SO, I WORKED ON MY OWN TO TRAIN MYSELF."
TOHH!
KRAKA

"MY DAD, A CHARCOAL MAKER, BROUGHT ME UP ON HIS OWN UNTIL HE PASSED AWAY. MY MOM DIED RIGHT AFTER SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME. WITH SUCH A MONSTER BABY, I'M SURE IT WASN'T EASY FOR HER.
"BECAUSE OF MY BIG BODY AND ALL THESE FRIGGING MUSCLES, I GOT STRONG WITHOUT ANYONE'S HELP.
THUM-THUM-THUMP
"THEN I THOUGHT OF BECOMING A *SUMO* WRESTLER."

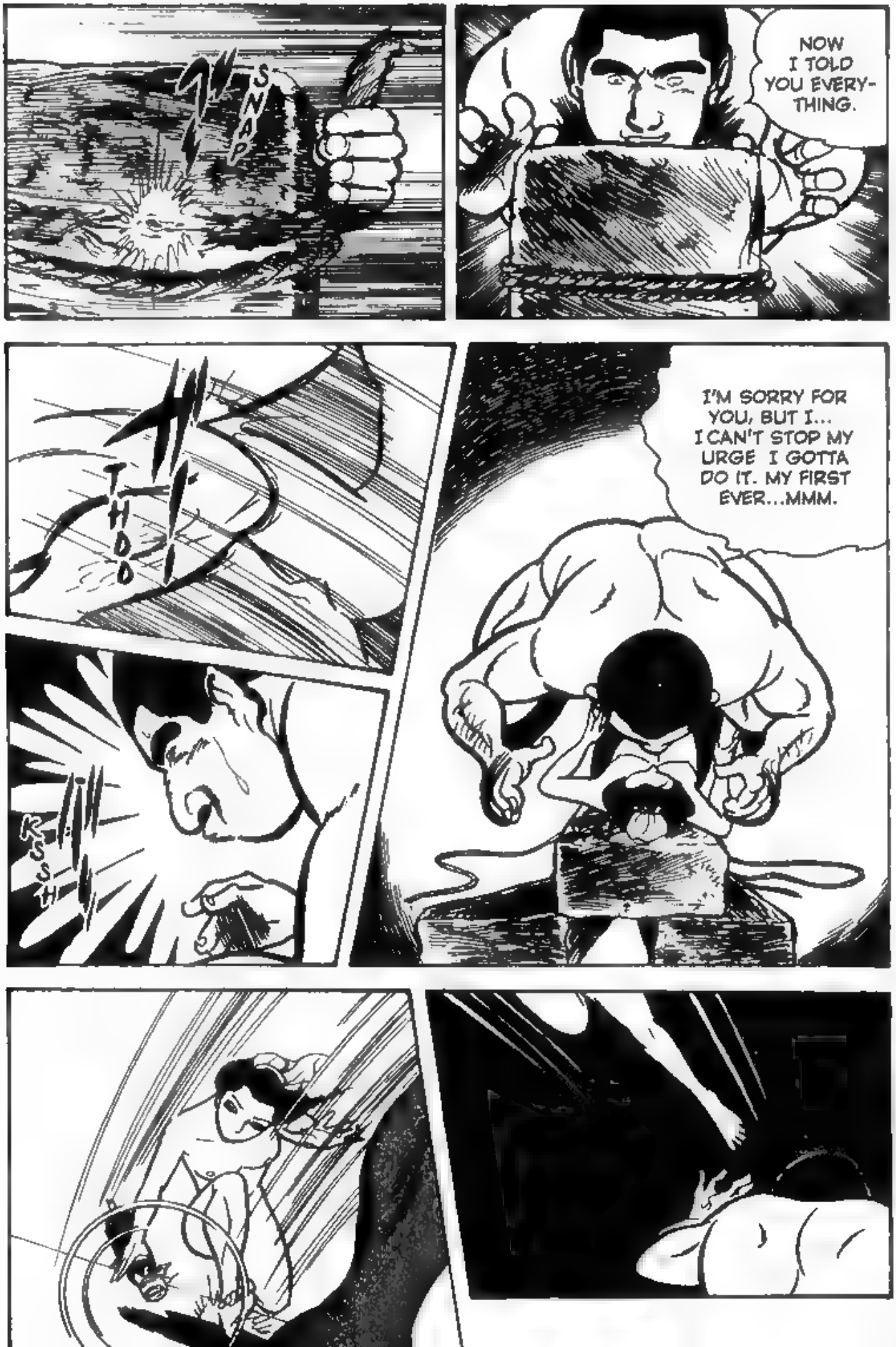
SKRI
SLAM
BAM
BAM
WHAMM
KK
KK

"WHEN I REALIZED IT WAS NO GOOD TO BE TOO STRONG, I LOST INTEREST.
"MY URGES ARE JUST AS STRONG-- TOO STRONG. I GET IN TROUBLE ALL THE TIME FOR THAT."
"BUT IT'S NOT JUST MY DAMNED BODY AND FRIGGING MUSCLES.


"I'M YOUNG, AND OF COURSE I WANNA DO IT TOO.
BATH
"BUT COMPARED WITH MINE, EVERYONE ELSE IS TEENY-WEENY.
GYAAA
"KNOWING THAT, I SAVED MONEY AND WENT OUT TO BUY A WENCH ANYWAY."
AIEE

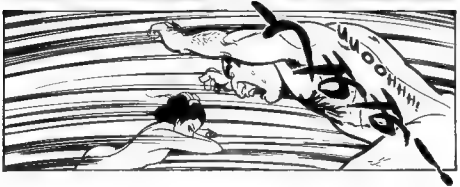

"THAT'S WHEN I SAW.. SOME CAUCA-SIANS."
H-HELP! SOME-ONE--

"IF I TRAVEL ABROAD, I CAN FIND WOMEN BIGGER THAN ME.
"SHE WAS A BIG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. I HEARD SHE'S FROM A COUNTRY CALLED ENGLAND. SO SUDDENLY I FOUND HOPE.
"I'M GONNA SAVE MONEY AND GO TO THE LAND OF CAUCASIANS I MAY BE ABLE TO FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN FIT IN.
"BEING AN APPRENTICE, I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES, AND I USED IT TO BLACKMAIL THEM."
BOTH TETSU AIZAWA AND YOU THOUGHT WRONG THAT'S REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT


SNAP
NOW I TOLD YOU EVERY-THING.
THDO
I'M SORRY FOR YOU, BUT I... I CAN'T STOP MY URGE I GOTTA DO IT. MY FIRST EVER...MMM.
KSSH

IT'S NO USE. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY. JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER. YOU GOT NO CHANCE

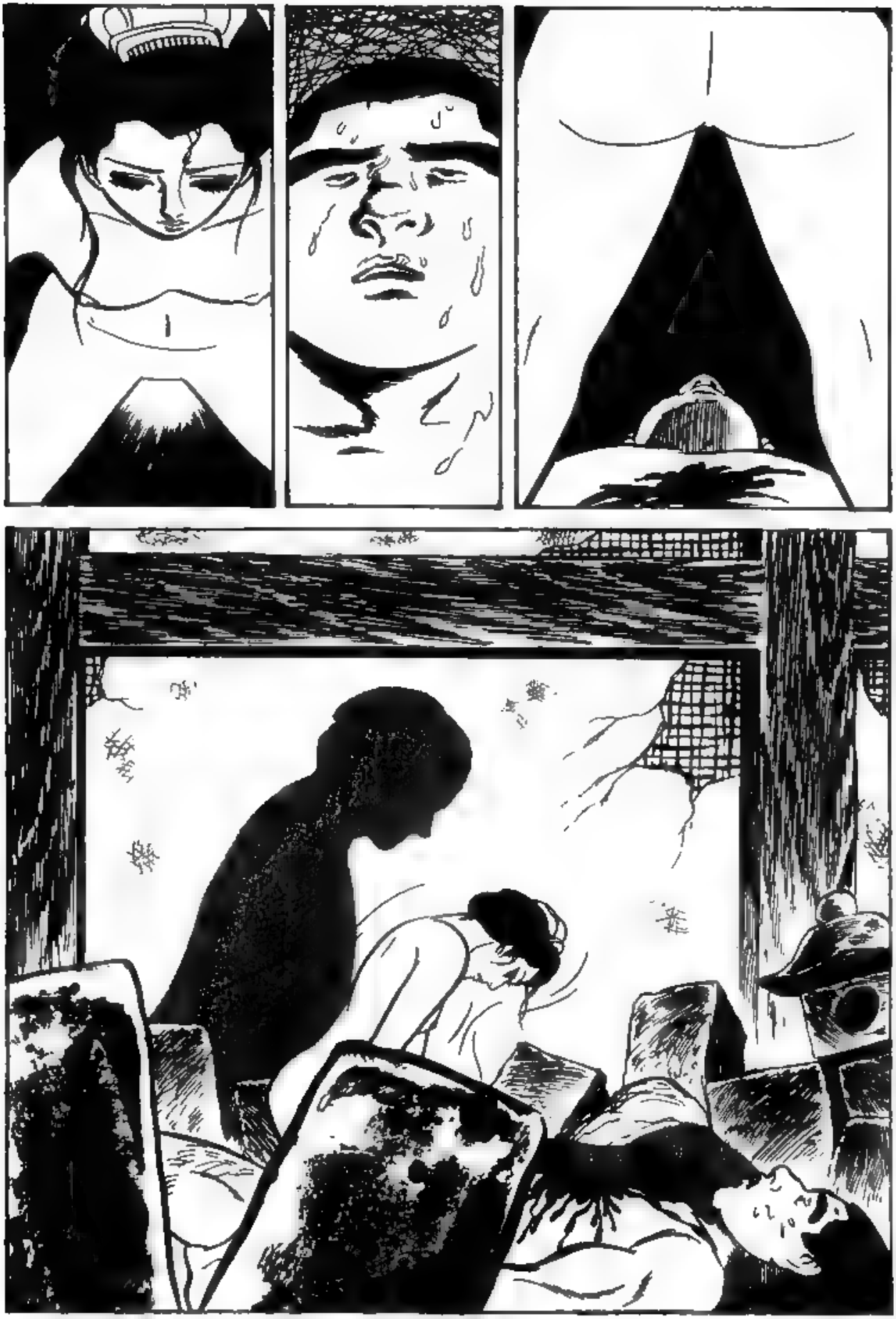
Y-YOU .YOU INTENTIONALLY LOST THE FIRST TIME. AND GOT YOURSELF CAUGHT .


HHHOOM!

SHOOP

D-DAMN IF I CAN'T MAKE IT WITH YOU .. I WON'T REST IN PEACE EVEN AFTER I'M DEAD.
SCRUNCH
AHH!
GRUHGRUH
AHH
WHUMP

IF YOU DON'T MIND DOING IT BETWEEN MY BARE THIGHS .



Y...
YUKI...

■ BLACKMAILER GENJIRO AND THE SONG OF THE PHANTOM, PART 2 / THE END ■

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA

RETRIBUTION

Lady Snowblood is a woman born with a singular purpose, revenge. Revenge for the death of her father at the hands of greedy criminals. Revenge for the life of her mother, who birthed her in a prison to continue this demon's path of death. Sometimes this path is odd, sometimes sexy, often painful, and always violent. By means of a world's worth of skills, Lady Snowblood will find her revenge. At the end of the road, one thing is certain—retribution arrives on the edge of an umbrella-handle blade.

Skillfully written by Kazuo Koike of *Lone Wolf & Cub* fame and master-drafted by Kazuo Kamimura, *Lady Snowblood* is a sexy story of a woman bound by dire desires.

This graphic novel is translated into English, but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published in Japan.

LADY SNOW BLOOD 修羅雪姫

PRESENTED BY KAZUO KOIKE & KAZUO KAMIMURA

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VOL. 3

修羅雪姫

EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

LADY SNOWBLOOD

RETRIBUTION PT. 1

STORY BY KAZUO KOIKE ART BY KAZUO KAMIMURA

LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

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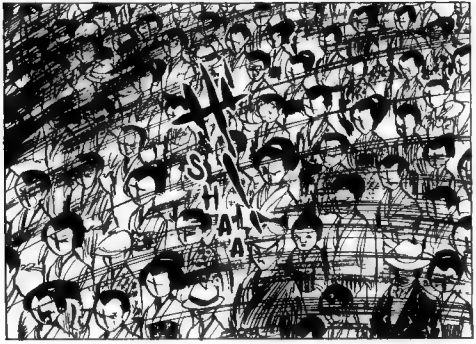
外題之十

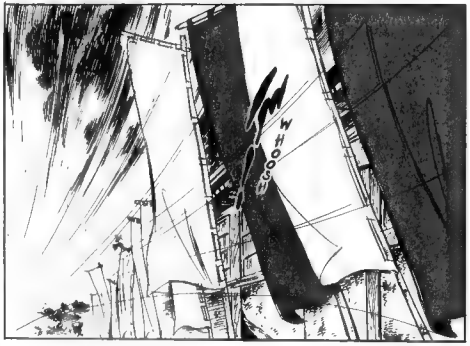
女意和戸開帳異聞（おまのいわとかいちょういぶん）一

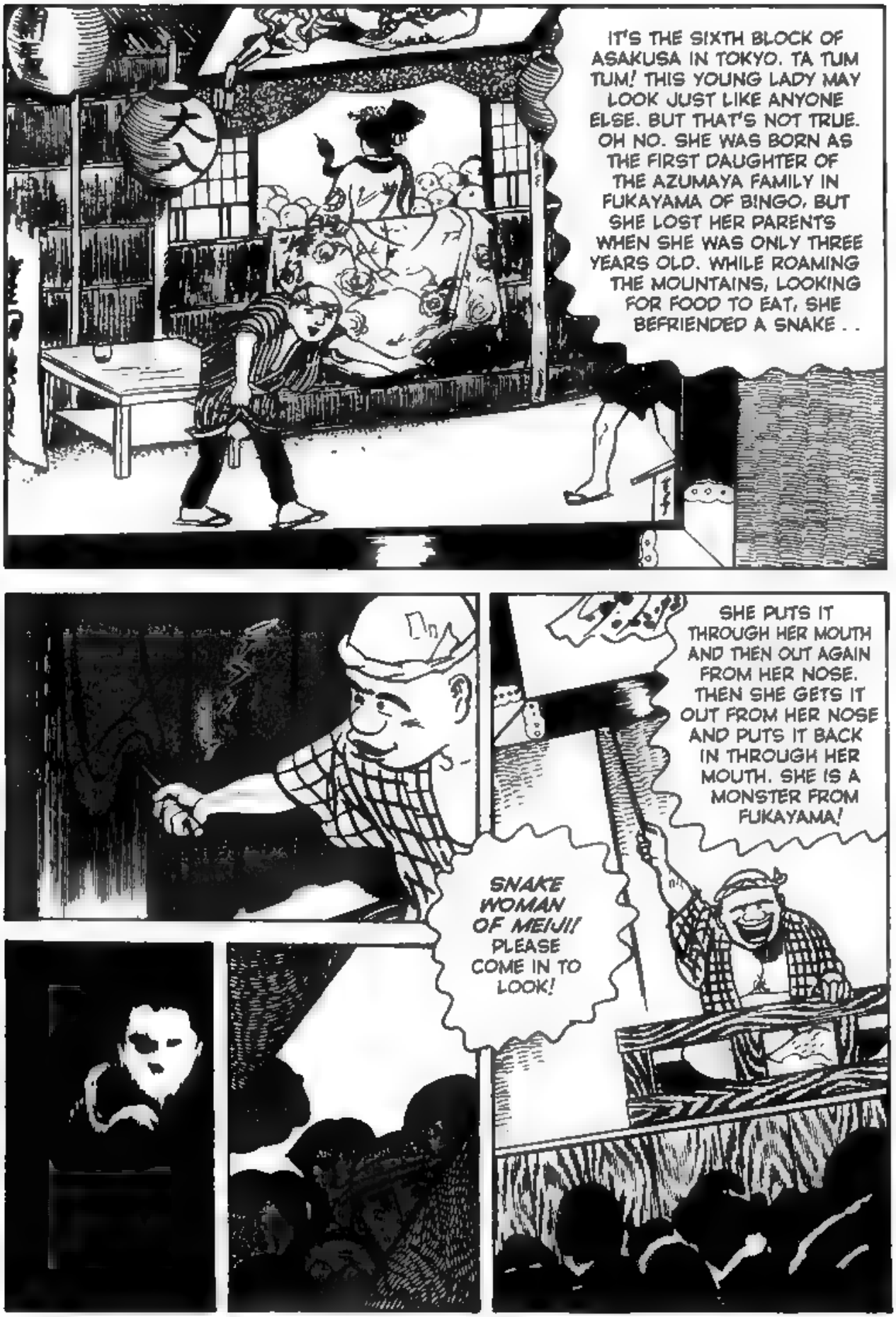
EPISODE 10
UNVEILING OF A PRETTY WOMAN AND A STRANGE TALE, PART 1

ISSUNBOSHI
THE TINY MONK
KAPPA BOY

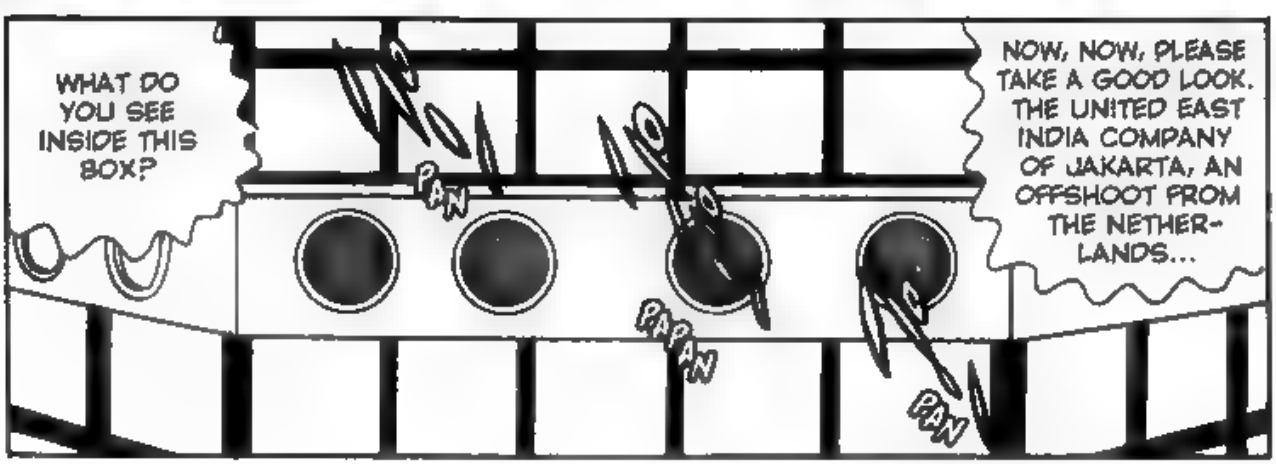
FREAK
SHOW
SNAKE WOMAN

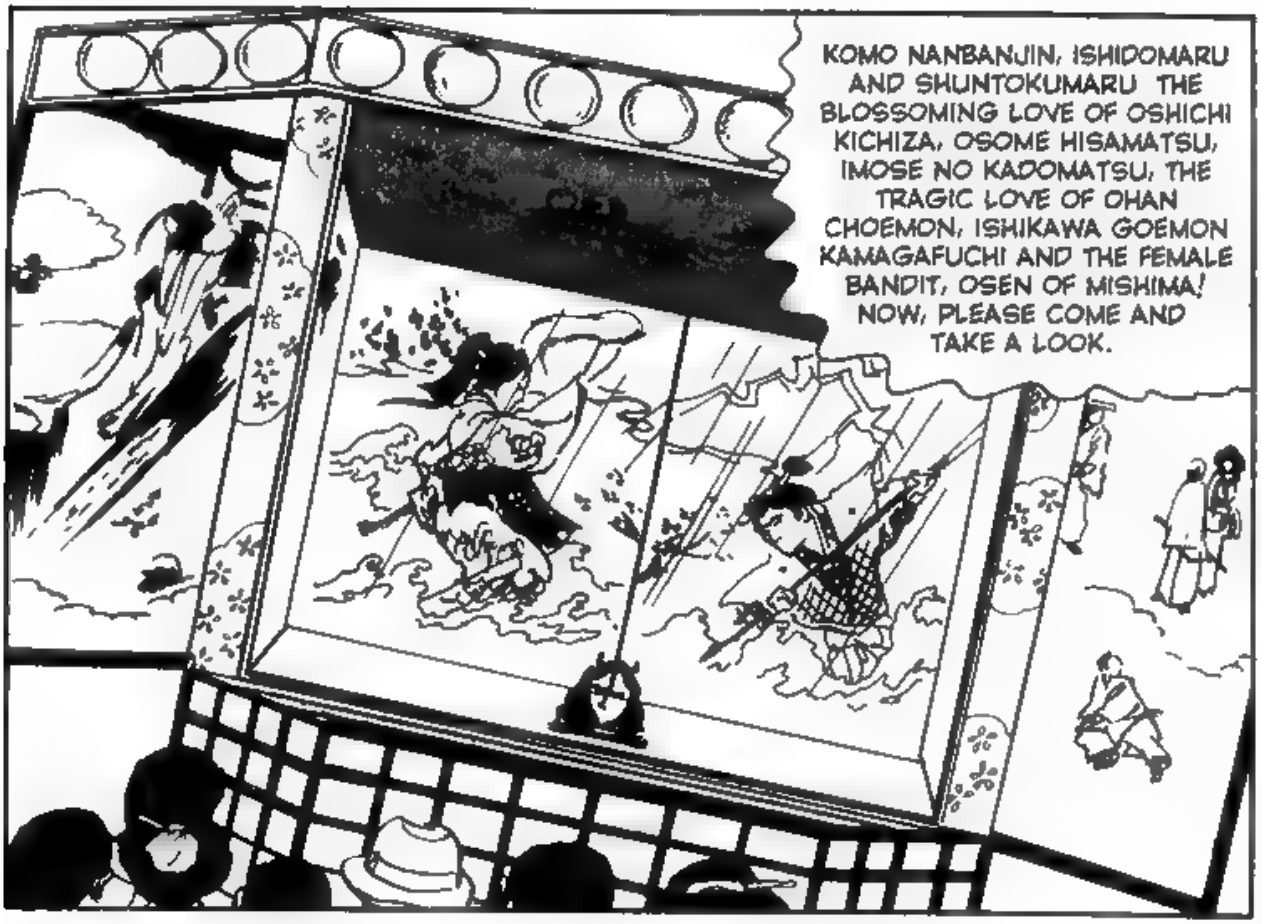

SHAA

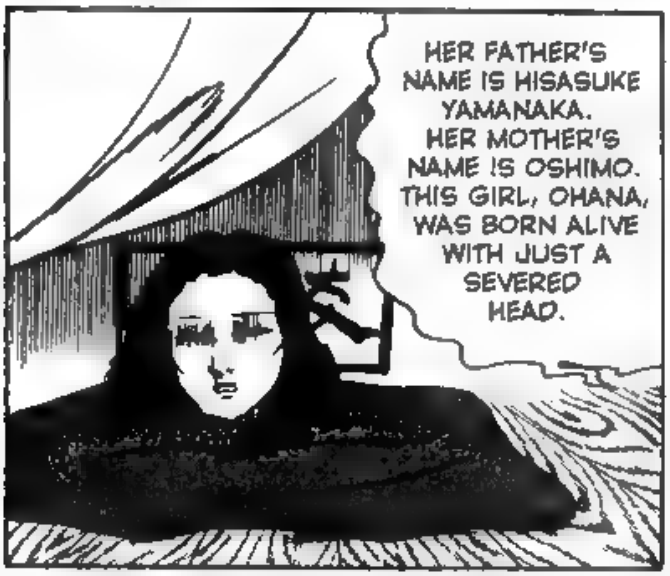

WHOOO


IT'S THE SIXTH BLOCK OF ASAKUSA IN TOKYO. TA TUM TUM! THIS YOUNG LADY MAY LOOK JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE. BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE. OH NO. SHE WAS BORN AS THE FIRST DAUGHTER OF THE AZUMAYA FAMILY IN FUKAYAMA OF BINGO, BUT SHE LOST HER PARENTS WHEN SHE WAS ONLY THREE YEARS OLD. WHILE ROAMING THE MOUNTAINS, LOOKING FOR FOOD TO EAT, SHE BEFRIENDED A SNAKE . .
SHE PUTS IT THROUGH HER MOUTH AND THEN OUT AGAIN FROM HER NOSE. THEN SHE GETS IT OUT FROM HER NOSE AND PUTS IT BACK IN THROUGH HER MOUTH. SHE IS A MONSTER FROM FUKAYAMA!
SNAKE WOMAN OF MEIJI! PLEASE COME IN TO LOOK!

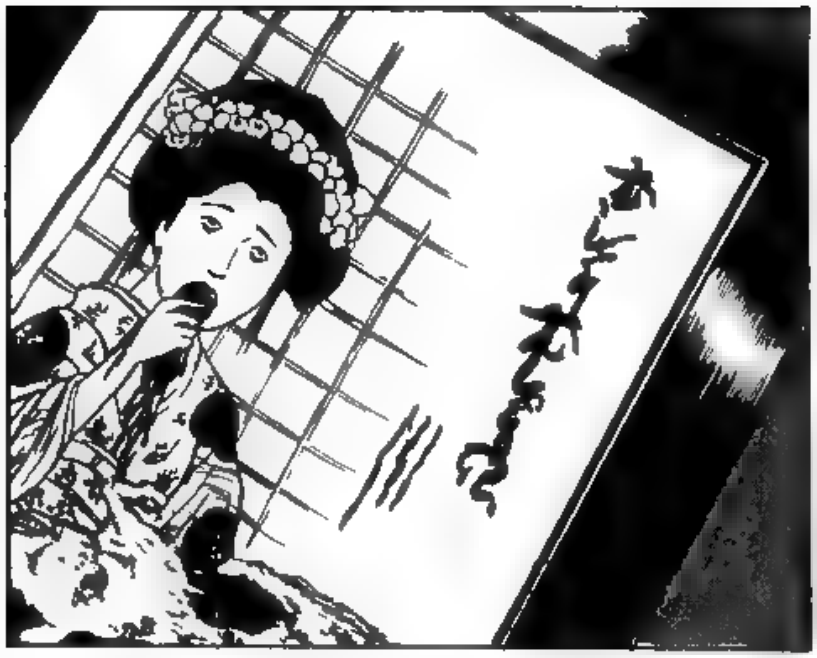
DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HER? ISN'T IT SAD? WHAT A FATE TO BECOME A LONG-NECKED MONSTER! LOOK, THE MONSTER IS SHEDDING TEARS. SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU TO COME IN TO LOOK AND SYMPATHIZE WITH HER.
WHAT A FATE TO BECOME A LONG-NECKED MONSTER! TONIGHT, I BET, THIS MONSTER OF A WOMAN WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH A MAN AMONG YOU--BUT THE WAY IT IS, HER AFFECTION WILL NOT BE RETURNED. HOW SHE WISHES TO LICK THE NAVEL OF THAT MAN!

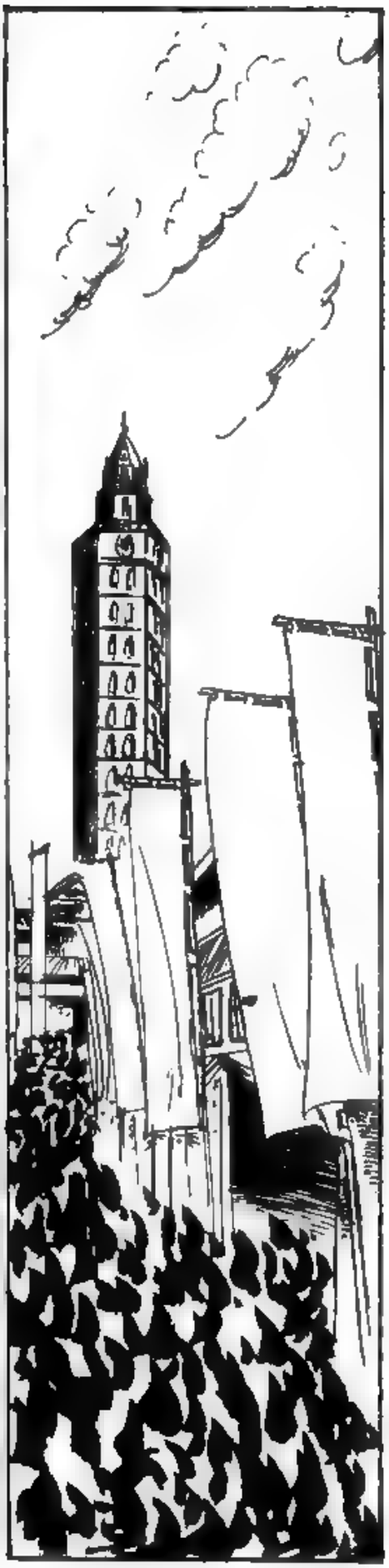

WHAT DO YOU SEE INSIDE THIS BOX?
PAN
PAPAN
PAN
NOW, NOW, PLEASE TAKE A GOOD LOOK. THE UNITED EAST INDIA COMPANY OF JAKARTA, AN OFFSHOOT FROM THE NETHERLANDS...


KOMO NANBANJIN, ISHIDOMARU AND SHUNTOKUMARU THE BLOSSOMING LOVE OF OSHICHI KICHIZA, OSOME HISAMATSU, IMOSE NO KADOMATSU, THE TRAGIC LOVE OF OHAN CHOEMON, ISHIKAWA GOEMON KAMAGAFUCHI AND THE FEMALE BANDIT, OSEN OF MISHIMA! NOW, PLEASE COME AND TAKE A LOOK.


HER FATHER'S NAME IS HISASUKE YAMANAKA. HER MOTHER'S NAME IS OSHIMO. THIS GIRL, OHANA, WAS BORN ALIVE WITH JUST A SEVERED HEAD.

THIS IS KARMA THE SAD FATE OF A HUMAN CHILD. SHE IS BORN IN ASAHIDAKE, DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF ISHIKARI OF SNOWY HOKKAIDO.





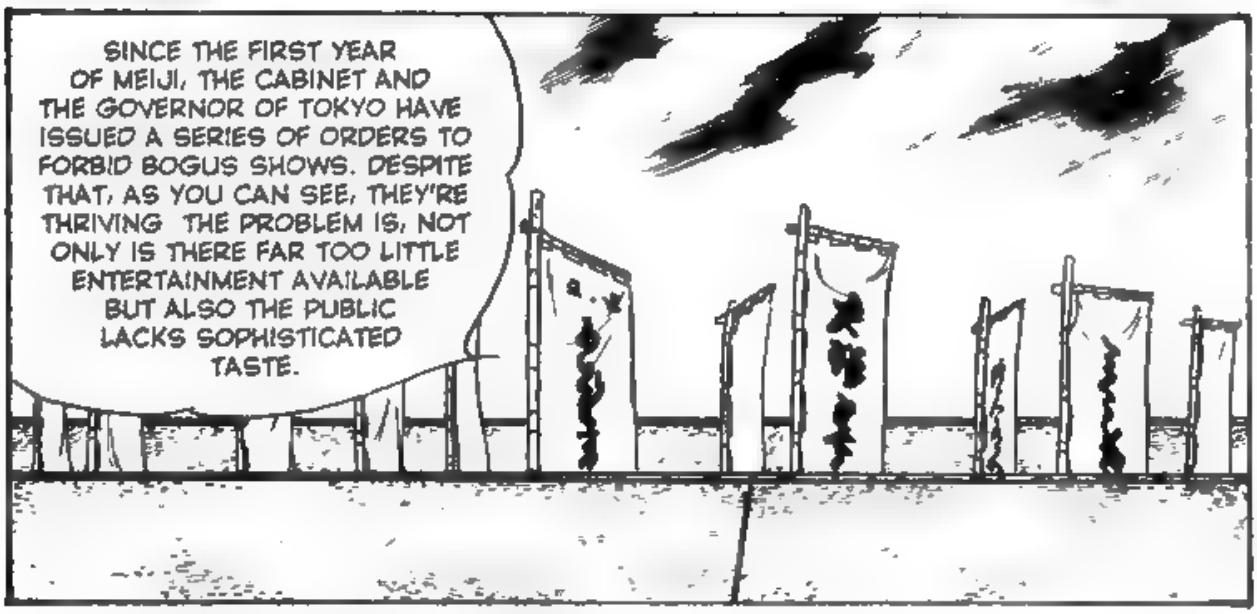
WATCH OUT, YOU IDIOT!
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN WHEN YOU WALK!

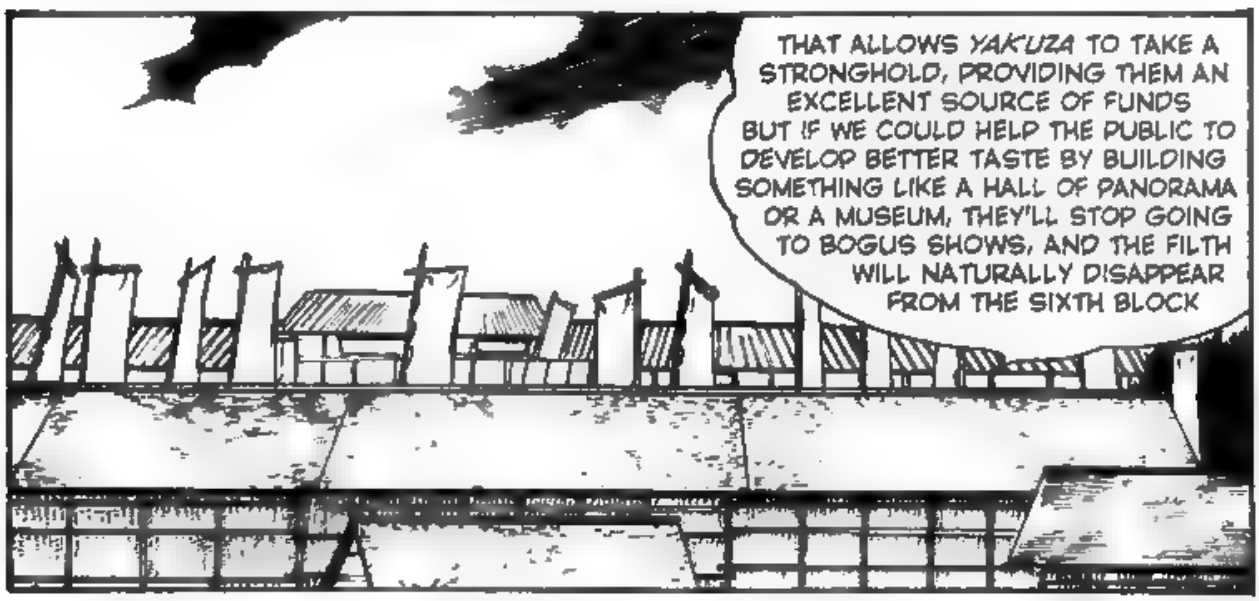
MORON!
THERE'RE TOO MANY LIKE HIM. THE SIXTH BLOCK HAS BECOME BREEDING GROUNDS FOR CRIMINALS. *YAKUZA*, BOGUS SHOWS, PHONY STREET VENDORS. THE WAY IT IS, ASAKUSA WILL GO DOWN THE DRAIN.
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE . WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

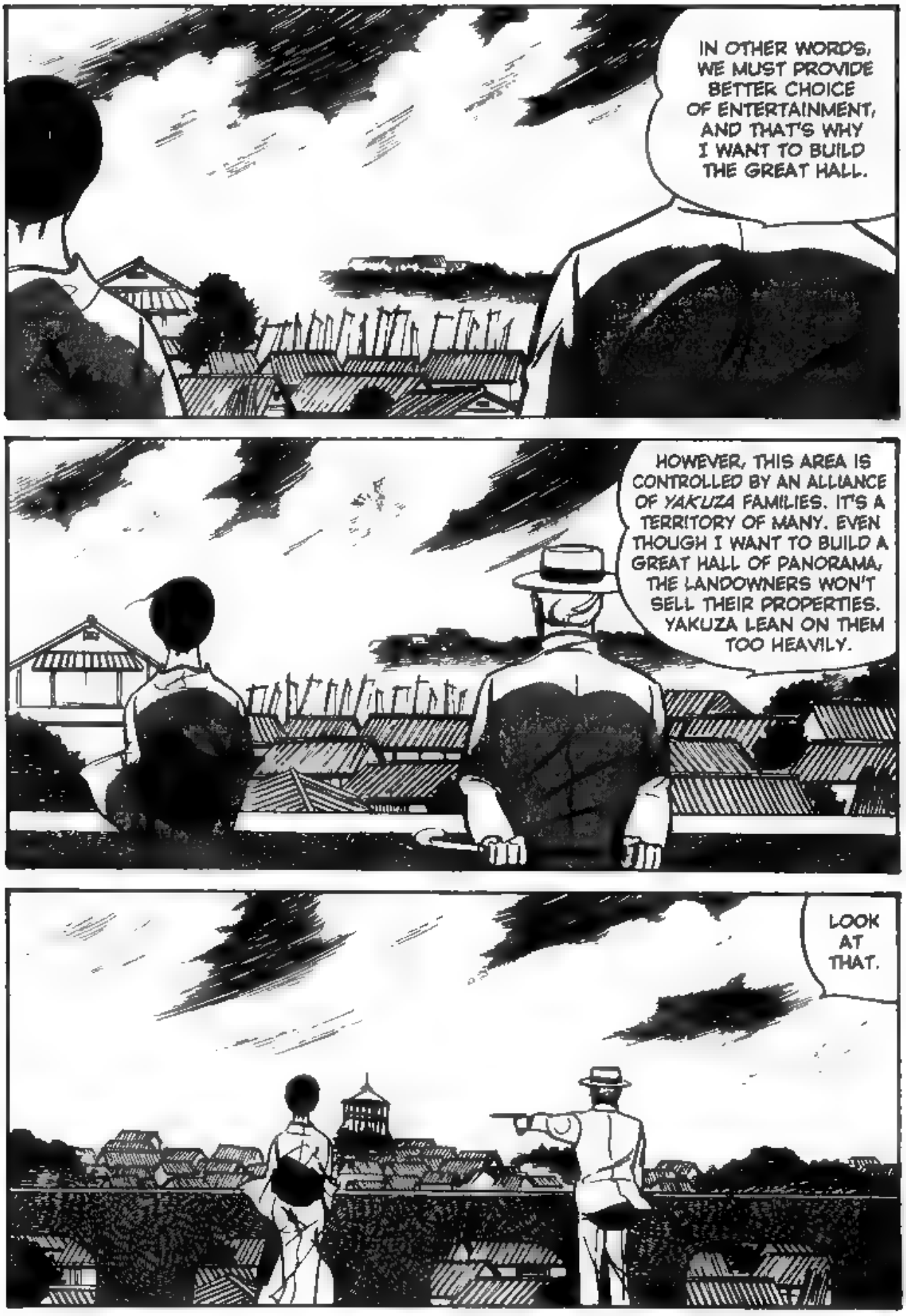
AND ABOUT YOUR REQUEST ?
THE FOOD HERE IS FILTHY. NO WONDER SO MANY OF US GET SICK.

PANO-
RAMA?
I WANT TO BUILD A GREAT HALL OF PANORAMA IN THIS ASAKUSA PARK OF SIXTH BLOCK.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M HOPING TO PUT UP THE PICTURE OF THE U.S. CIVIL WAR DEPICTED BY SARGENT AND BERTRAND, THE FRENCH ARTIST. I WANT TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEW.
...
...

I WANT THE PUBLIC TO EXPERIENCE THE REALISM BROUGHT OUT BY TECHNIQUES LIKE PERSPECTIVE AND REFLECTED RAYS AND BY THE USE OF HORIZONTAL EFFECT OVER THE SETTING. THEY'LL FEEL AS IF THEY'RE IN A MIDDLE OF A WAR ZONE YOU SEE, I WANT TO BUILD A PALACE OF ART IT'LL BECOME ONE OF THE MUST-VISIT SITES IN TOKYO, AND I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL APPLAUD IT.

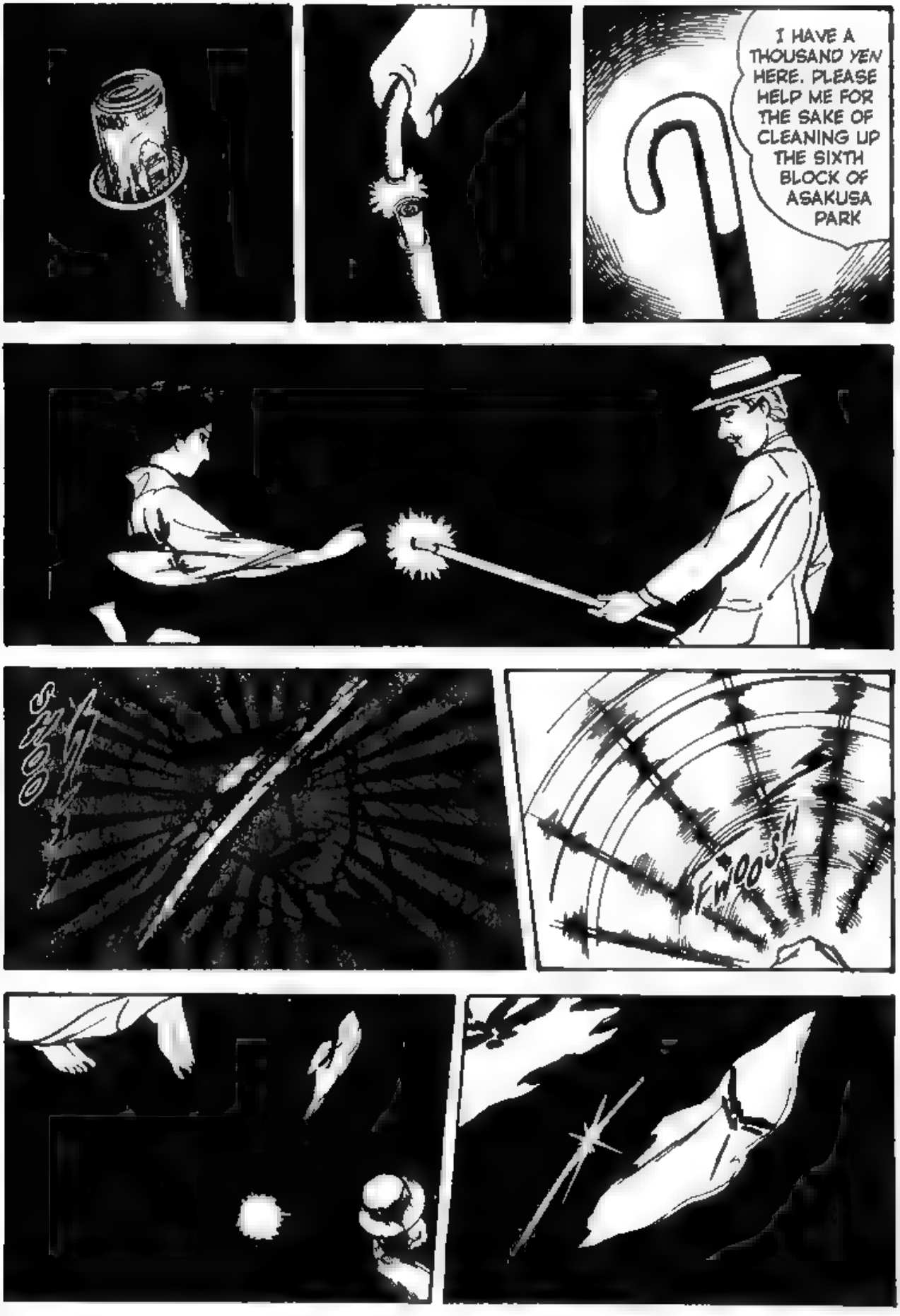

SINCE THE FIRST YEAR OF MEIJI, THE CABINET AND THE GOVERNOR OF TOKYO HAVE ISSUED A SERIES OF ORDERS TO FORBID BOGUS SHOWS. DESPITE THAT, AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE THRIVING THE PROBLEM IS, NOT ONLY IS THERE FAR TOO LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT AVAILABLE BUT ALSO THE PUBLIC LACKS SOPHISTICATED TASTE.


THAT ALLOWS *YAKUZA* TO TAKE A STRONGHOLD, PROVIDING THEM AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF FUNDS BUT IF WE COULD HELP THE PUBLIC TO DEVELOP BETTER TASTE BY BUILDING SOMETHING LIKE A HALL OF PANORAMA OR A MUSEUM, THEY'LL STOP GOING TO BOGUS SHOWS, AND THE FILTH WILL NATURALLY DISAPPEAR FROM THE SIXTH BLOCK

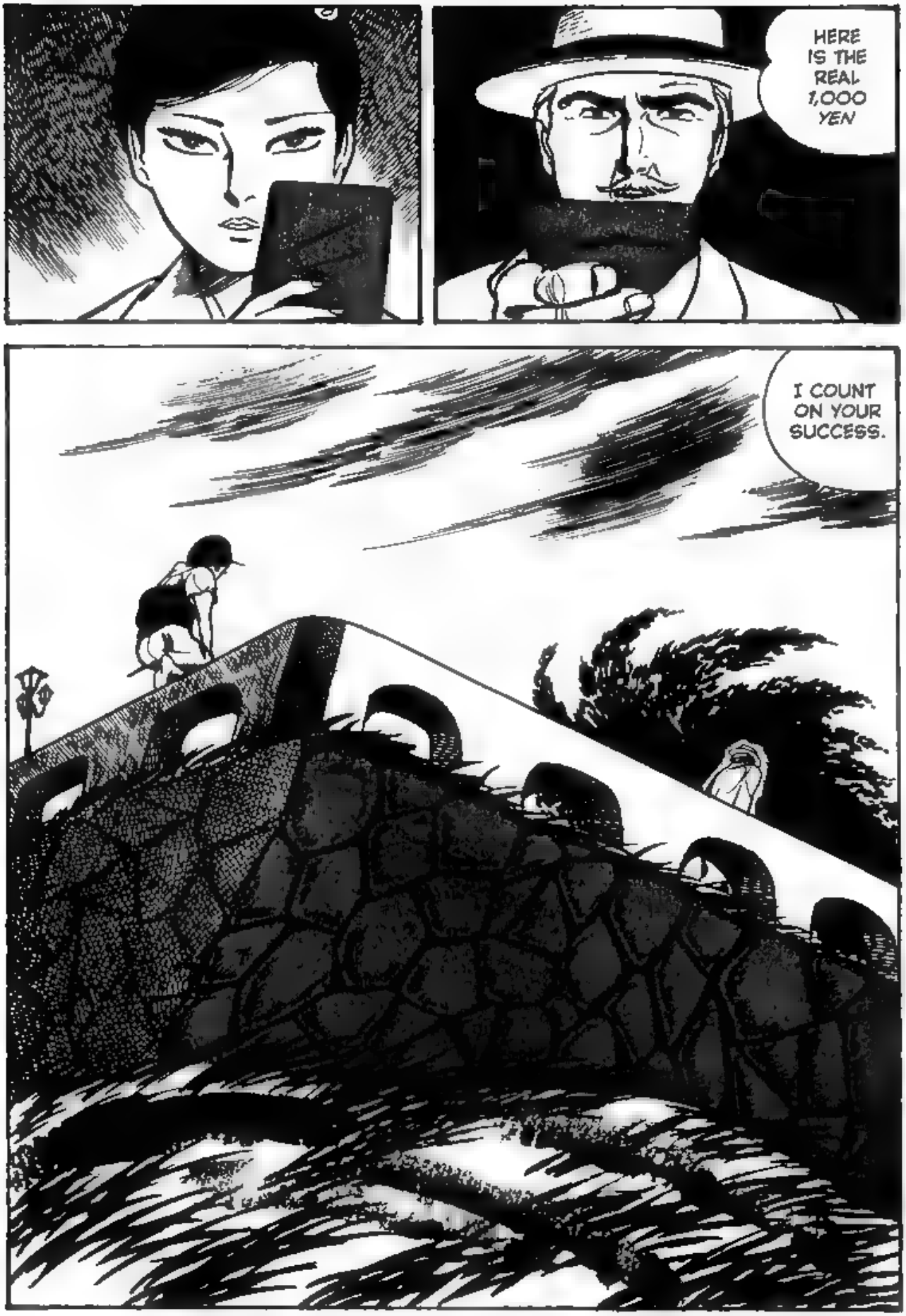

IN OTHER WORDS, WE MUST PROVIDE BETTER CHOICE OF ENTERTAINMENT, AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BUILD THE GREAT HALL.
HOWEVER, THIS AREA IS CONTROLLED BY AN ALLIANCE OF *YAKUZA* FAMILIES. IT'S A TERRITORY OF MANY. EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO BUILD A GREAT HALL OF PANORAMA, THE LANDOWNERS WON'T SELL THEIR PROPERTIES. YAKUZA LEAN ON THEM TOO HEAVILY.
LOOK AT THAT.

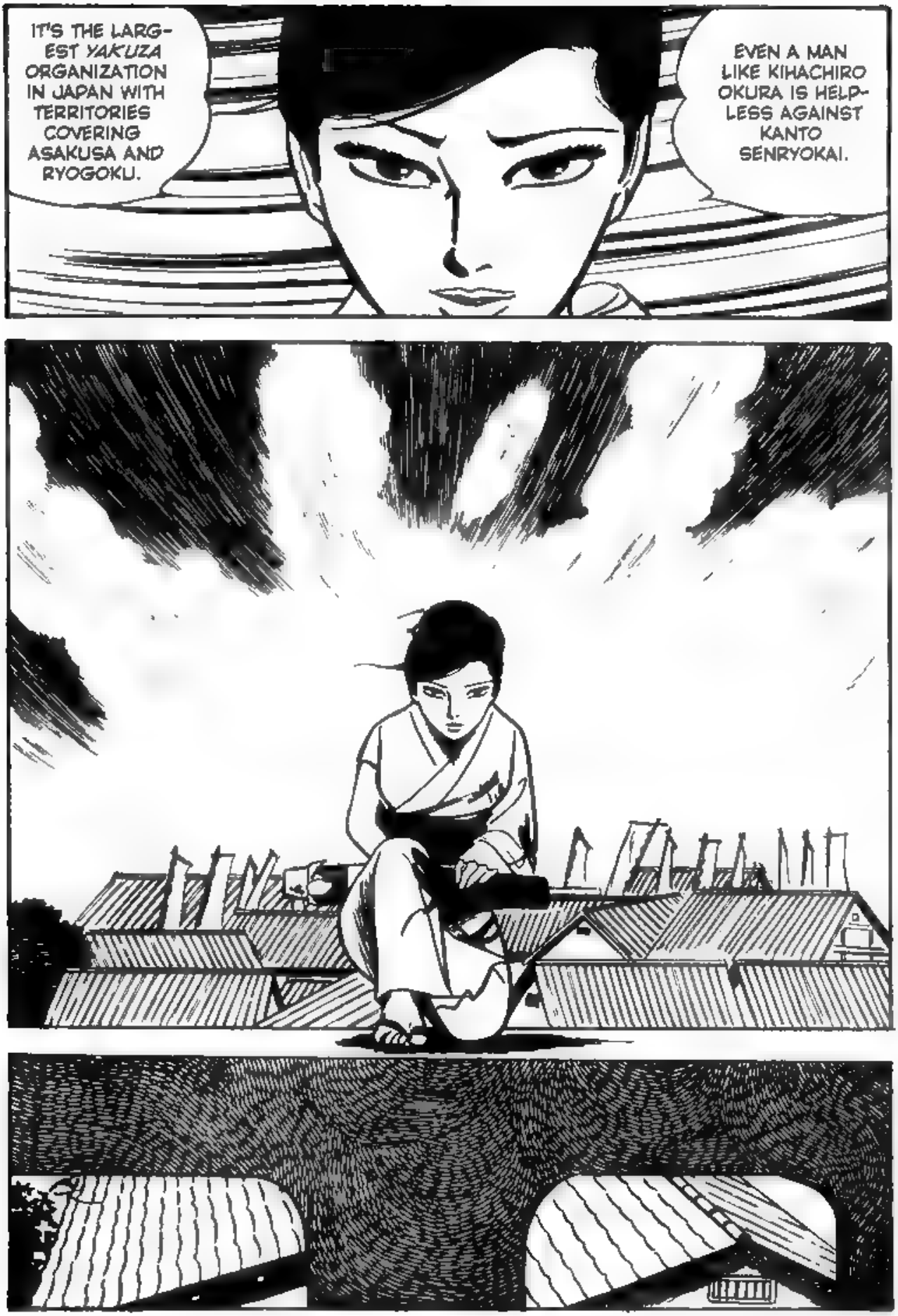
BECAUSE WE'RE UP AGAINST YAKUZA. WE CAN'T SETTLE THE MATTER BY DISCUSSION YOU SEE, THEY SURE DON'T WANT SOMETHING LIKE THE GREAT HALL TO BE BUILT.
I FINALLY OBTAINED SOME LAND AND BEGAN BUILDING. BUT THE CARPENTERS RAN AWAY AND CONSTRUCTION MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IT'S NOW IN A STATE OF COMPLETE STANDSTILL.

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT KANTO SENRYOKAI. THEY'RE THE ONES CONTROLLING THIS AREA I DON'T CARE WHAT METHOD YOU USE SO LONG AS WE CAN BUILD THE GREAT HALL IN THE END.


I HAVE A THOUSAND YEN HERE. PLEASE HELP ME FOR THE SAKE OF CLEANING UP THE SIXTH BLOCK OF ASAKUSA PARK
SWISH
FWOOSH

YOU DODGED MY KILLING BLOW, THE SHINDO MUNENRYU... I'M IMPRESSED.
YOU'RE GOOD. NO WONDER YOU USE SYURA YUKI HIME AS YOUR STREET NAME.
I WISH I WAS YOUNGER. I'M FETTERED WITH TOO MANY STUPID THINGS LIKE SOCIAL STATUS AND HONOR. IF I PERSONALLY MAKE A MOVE, VARIOUS INCONVENIENCES WILL ARISE BESIDES, I'M ALREADY SHORT OF BREATH IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT THEY SAY--AN OLD GIRAFFE IS NOTHING BUT A BROKEN-DOWN, USELESS HORSE
CHINK
WHEN YOU'RE MASTER OF SUCH SKILL, WHY IS IT THAT YOU DO NOT TAKE CARE OF THINGS YOURSELF?


HERE IS THE REAL 1,000 YEN
I COUNT ON YOUR SUCCESS.


IT'S THE LARGEST *YAKUZA* ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN WITH TERRITORIES COVERING ASAKUSA AND RYOGOKU.
EVEN A MAN LIKE KIHACHIRO OKURA IS HELPLESS AGAINST KANTO SENRYOKAI.

IT WAS MY.. MY FAULT.
B-BOSS, P-PLEASE PARDON ME. PLEASE.
HURRY UP AND CUT OFF YOUR PINKIES
EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE WITH TEARS OF BLOOD, A RULE IS A RULE. YOU'LL NEVER BE FORGIVEN. YOU'LL BE BANISHED AFTER YOUR PINKIES ARE CUT OFF AND ONE OF YOUR EYES GOUGED
B-BOSS.
WITHOUT YOUR PINKIES, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PICKPOCKET AGAIN. AND GOUGING OUT YOUR EYE WILL TURN YOU INTO A VILE HAG AND NO MEN WILL EVER COME NEAR YOU AGAIN.

IF YOU CAN'T DO IT YOURSELF, WE'LL GET IT DONE FOR YOU.
C'MON! NO MORE OF YOUR PATHETIC WORDS. JUST CUT 'EM OFF!
SHUNK
AHHH
CUT 'EM OFF CLEAN BY THE SECOND JOINT.

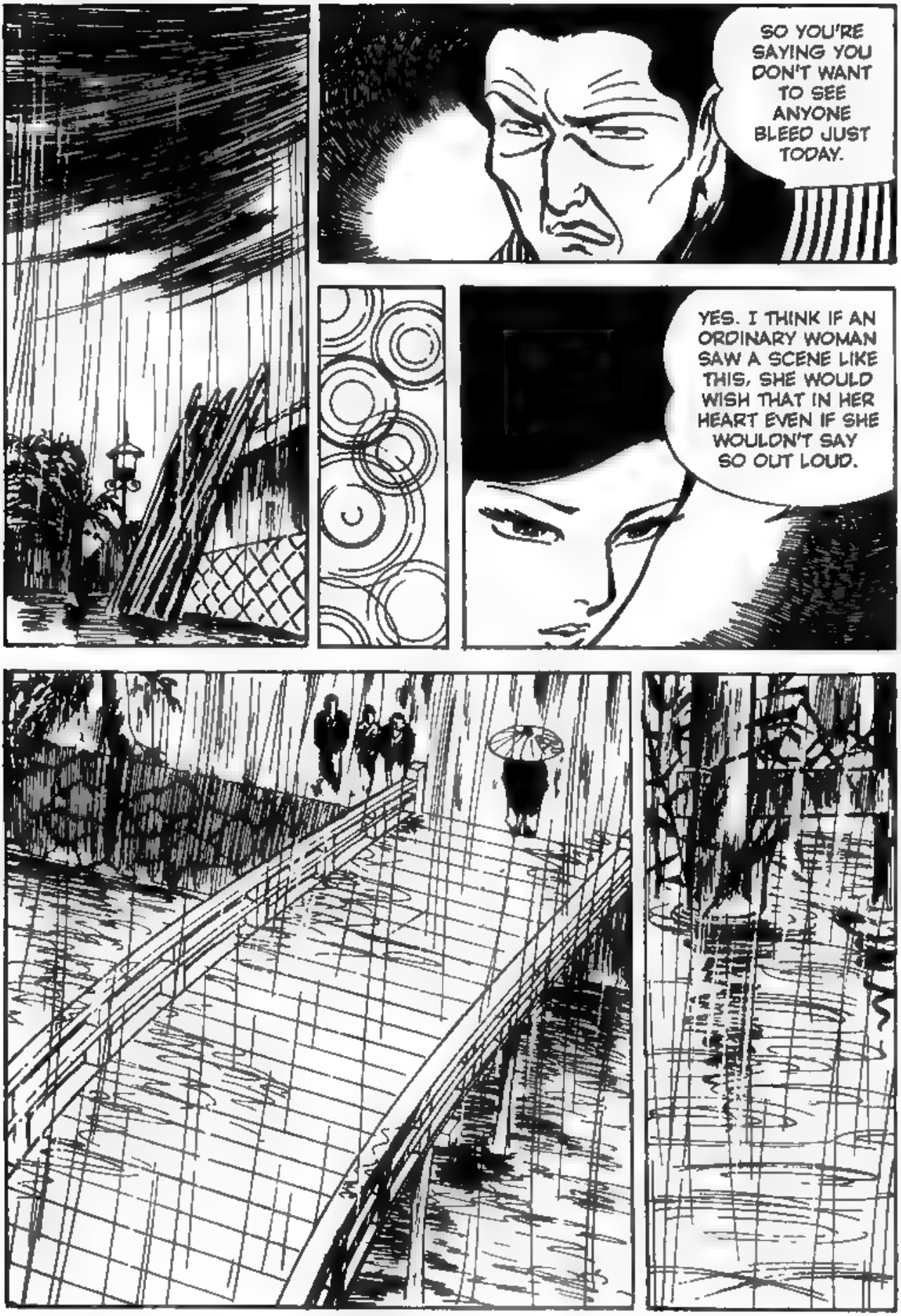
ALL RIGHT. GUYS, GET HER EYEBALL AND THEN CUT OFF HER PINKIES.
I'M LETTING YOU DO THE MORE PAINFUL ONE FIRST. IT'S EASIER THAT WAY. CONSIDER IT MY MOTHERLY LOVE.
AHH... P. .P... PLEASE HELP...
HUH?!

OHH, OYUKI!
AUNTIE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW YOU LAST.
COME ON IN. OVER HERE.
...
...

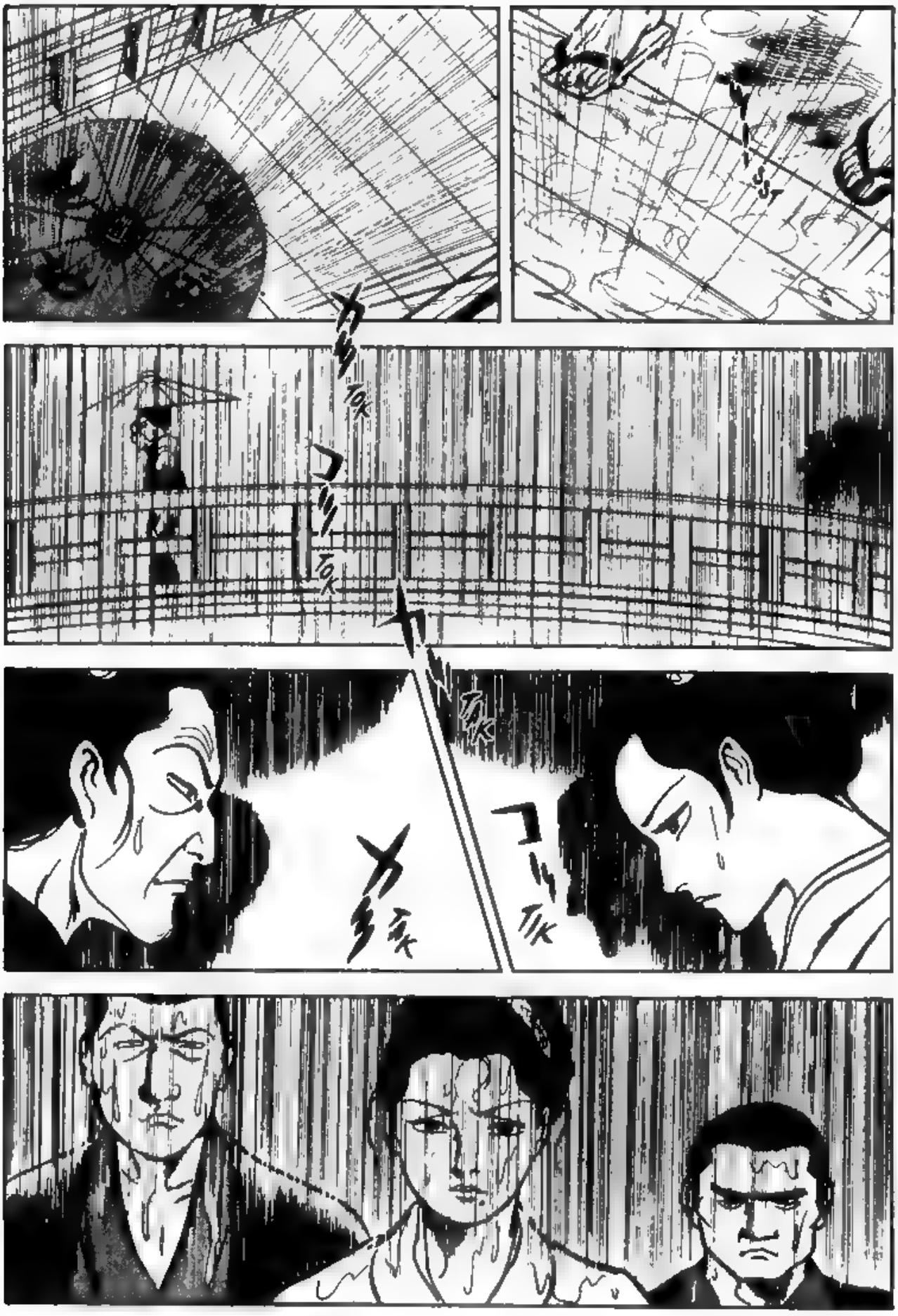
HURRY UP AND GET IT OVER WITH!
YUKI .WILL YOU WAIT JUST A WHILE? I HAVE TO FINISH DEAL-!NG WITH MY FAMILY'S MIS-CONDUCT.
AIEEE! P-PLEASE PARDON ME.... BOSS, PLEASE LET ME OFF.
EVEN THOUGH THIS ROKUE OF CHIYOBOTAN IS A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY, SHE'S A DIRTY, WRETCHED WOMAN. SHE HAS A PRETTY FACE AND SUPERIOR CONTROL OF HER VAGINAL MUSCLES, AND SHE'S VERY POPULAR... AND SHE'S BEEN COMMITTING BEDROOM THEFT ON A REGULAR BASIS.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SHE'D SEDUCE MEN, HAVE SEX, GET 'EM TIRED. AND AS SOON AS THEY FALL FAST ASLEEP SHE'D STEAL THEIR MONEY AND DISAPPEAR I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE GOT SOMEONE LIKE HER IN MY FAMILY IT'S SO EMBARRASSING I CAN'T SHOW MY FACE TO THE OTHERS.
...
...

THAT'S WHY SHE WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDING TO OUR RULES PICKPOCKETING IS AN ART. IT'S SOMETHING ONE LEARNS THROUGH SEVERE TRAINING. STEALING MONEY AFTER HAVING SEX IS WORSE THAN HOOKERS WHAT SHE DID IS SMEARING OUR REPUTATION.
A BEDROOM THIEF IS NOT A PICKPOCKET. ANY WOMAN CAN DO THAT. IT'S FORBIDDEN AMONG US. BUT THIS BITCH HAS BEEN DOING IT ANYWAY. THIS CANNOT BE LEFT IGNORED.
WAIT.
DO IT!
AUNTIE, YOU TOLD ME THAT A PICKPOCKET MAY GAMBLE ON ANYTHING SO LONG AS IT'S BUSINESS.
YUKI! DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH WHAT WE DO FOR OUR LIVING. I HOLD YOU DEAR, BUT ONCE YOU GET INTO IT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT AGAIN FREE.

HOW ABOUT A CHALLENGE? I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE PICKPOCKETING SKILL YOU TAUGHT ME. AND IF I WIN, PLEASE LET HER OFF THE HOOK.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
I'LL OBEY YOUR WORDS, AUNTIE.
WHAT A BOLD THING TO SUGGEST. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF YOU *LOSE*?
I AM THE SNOW OF *SYURA* DRIFTING IN A STORM OF BLOOD. BUT TODAY, JUST TODAY, I WANT TO BE AN ORDINARY WOMAN, AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY-ONE HURT
WHY DO YOU WANNA PROTECT A WOMAN LIKE HER?
AS AN ORDINARY WOMAN, AUNTIE, I WANT TO CHAT WITH YOU AND MASSAGE YOUR SHOULDERS. ONLY TODAY, JUST ONE DAY


SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE BLEED JUST TODAY.
YES. I THINK IF AN ORDINARY WOMAN SAW A SCENE LIKE THIS, SHE WOULD WISH THAT IN HER HEART EVEN IF SHE WOULDN'T SAY SO OUT LOUD.

YES.
ALL RIGHT, YUKI. YOU HAVE TO REMOVE THIS WALLET FROM MY POCKET BEFORE WE FINISH GOING ACROSS THE BRIDGE.
IF YOU SUCCEED, I'LL LET ROKUE OFF THE HOOK.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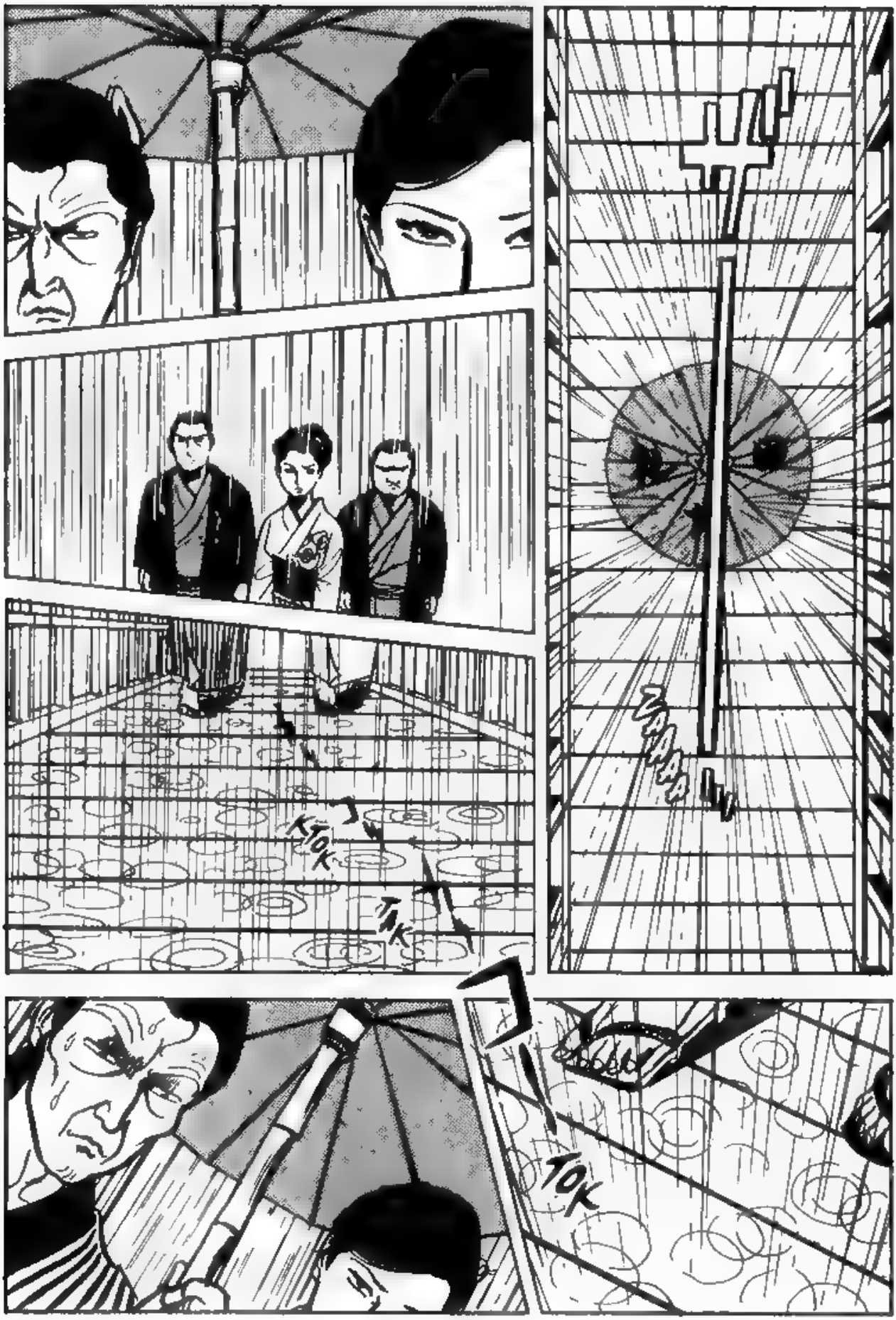
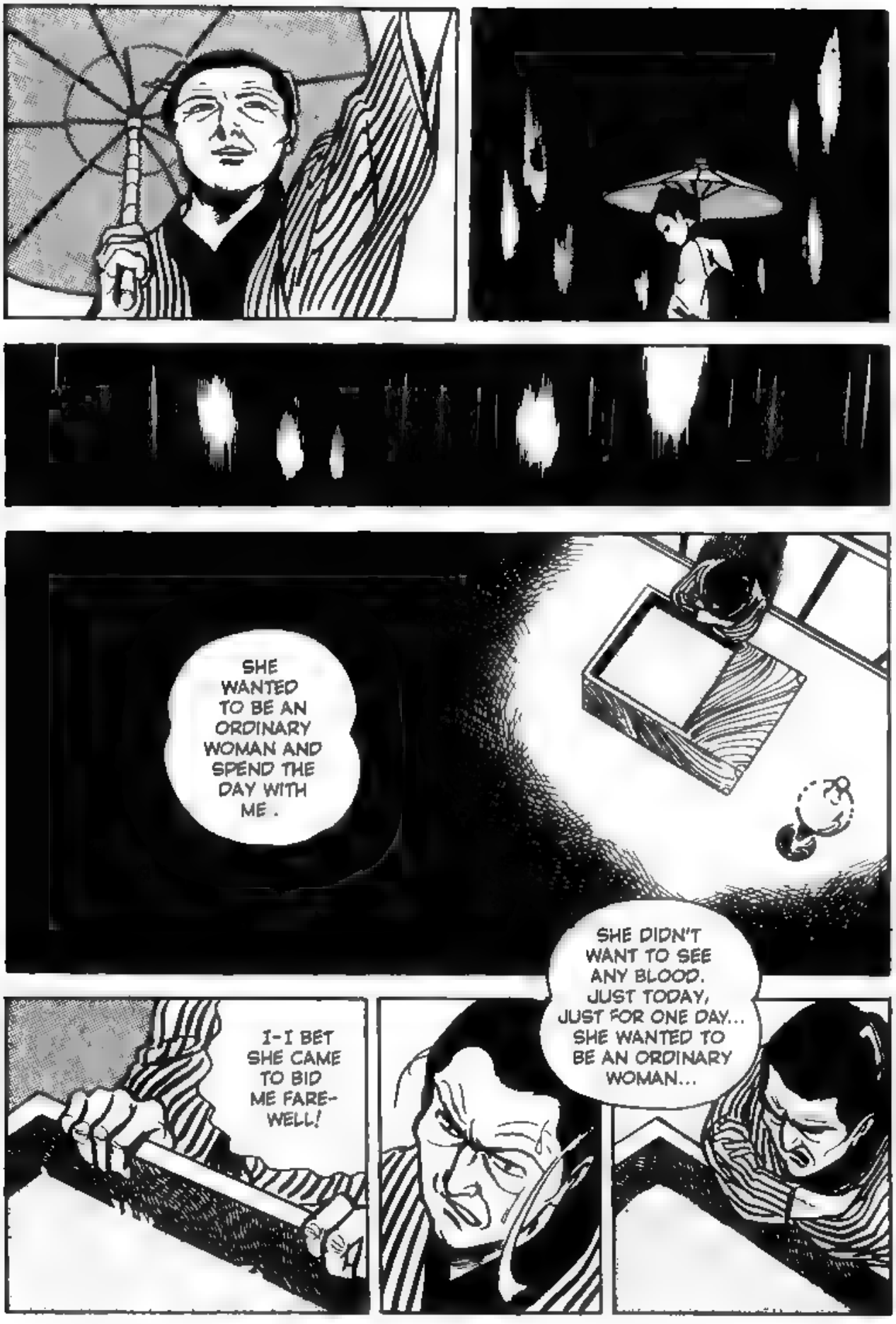

KTOK
TAK
TOK

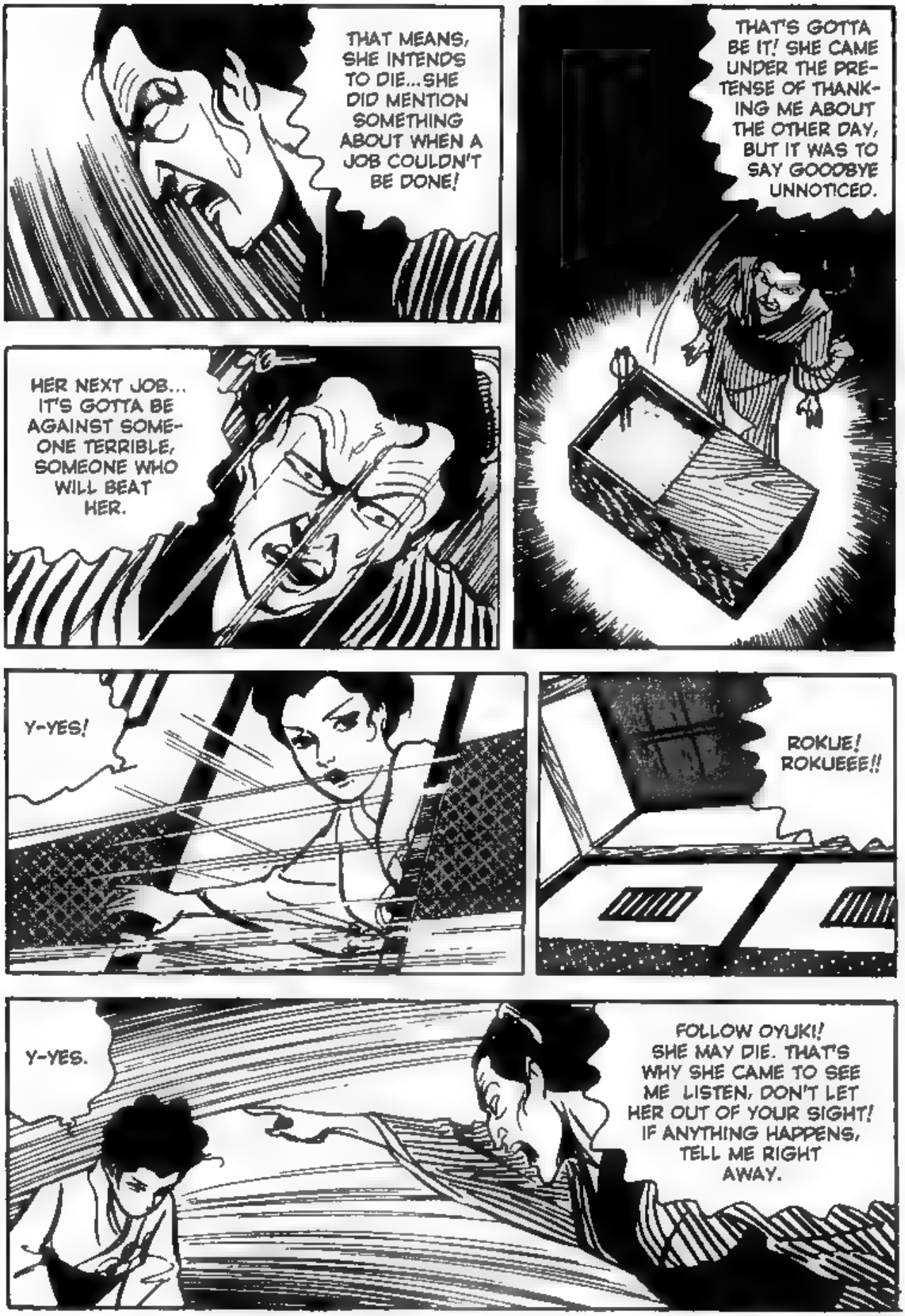
I LOST, AUNTIE.
SPLOSH
SHU

MM..
AUNTIE, MY FOOT WAS STILL ON THE BRIDGE.

TH-THANK YOU. I...I WILL REPAY...Y-YOUR KINDNESS. . OYUKI... I-I--
N-NO, I WON'T
ROKUE, JUST DON'T DO IT EVER AGAIN.
I WISH YOU WERE MY REAL DAUGHTER. THAT YOU'D STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER.
UH. . UHH, HOW GOOD IT FEELS...

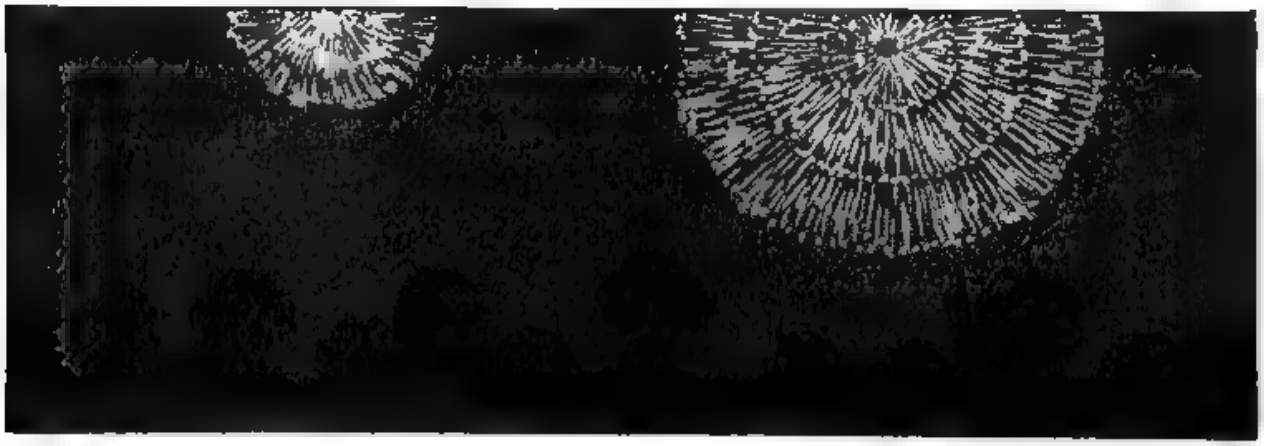
YOU STILL HAVE TWO MORE TO GO. IS YOUR NEXT JOB ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM?
YES
BY THE WAY, YOU SAID YOU TOOK CARE OF OKONO KITAHAMA.
NO. SYURA YUKI MUST FINISH ANY JOB ONCE IT'S UNDERTAKEN. THAT'S MY DESTINY. AND IF IT CANNOT BE DONE--
NO.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU SKIP OUT ON IT?
Y-YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
AUNTIE, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT. REMEMBER, I'M JUST AN ORDINARY WOMAN TODAY. JUST FOR ONE DAY.

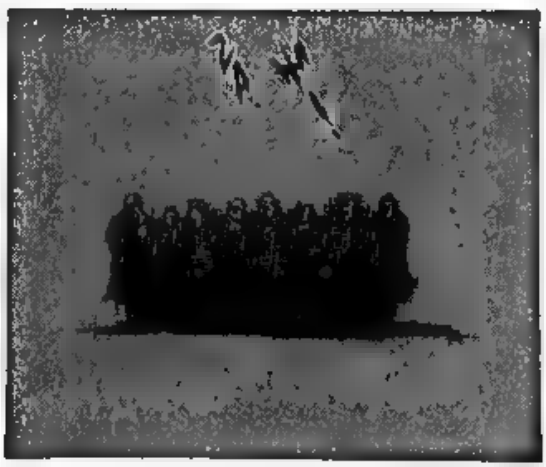

SHE WANTED TO BE AN ORDINARY WOMAN AND SPEND THE DAY WITH ME .
I-I BET SHE CAME TO BID ME FARE-WELL!
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ANY BLOOD. JUST TODAY, JUST FOR ONE DAY... SHE WANTED TO BE AN ORDINARY WOMAN...


THAT MEANS, SHE INTENDS TO DIE...SHE DID MENTION SOMETHING ABOUT WHEN A JOB COULDN'T BE DONE!
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT! SHE CAME UNDER THE PRETENSE OF THANKING ME ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, BUT IT WAS TO SAY GOODBYE UNNOTICED.
HER NEXT JOB... IT'S GOTTA BE AGAINST SOMEONE TERRIBLE, SOMEONE WHO WILL BEAT HER.
Y-YES!
ROKUE! ROKUEEE!!
Y-YES.
FOLLOW OYUKI! SHE MAY DIE. THAT'S WHY SHE CAME TO SEE ME. LISTEN, DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, TELL ME RIGHT AWAY.

GO!
I WON'T LET HER DIE. SORRY, SAYO, BUT YUKI IS MY DAUGHTER, TOO! SHE STILL HAS TWO MEN TO KILL IN REVENGE. I WILL NOT LET HER DIE. SHE HAS THE BURDEN OF INFERNAL SYURA... BUT SHE'S STILL A YOUNG GIRL.
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A DEMON OR SOME OTHER MONSTER FROM HELL OR IF IT'S KANTO SENRYOKAI. HER ENEMY IS MY ENEMY TOO. I WILL NOT LET HER DIE!

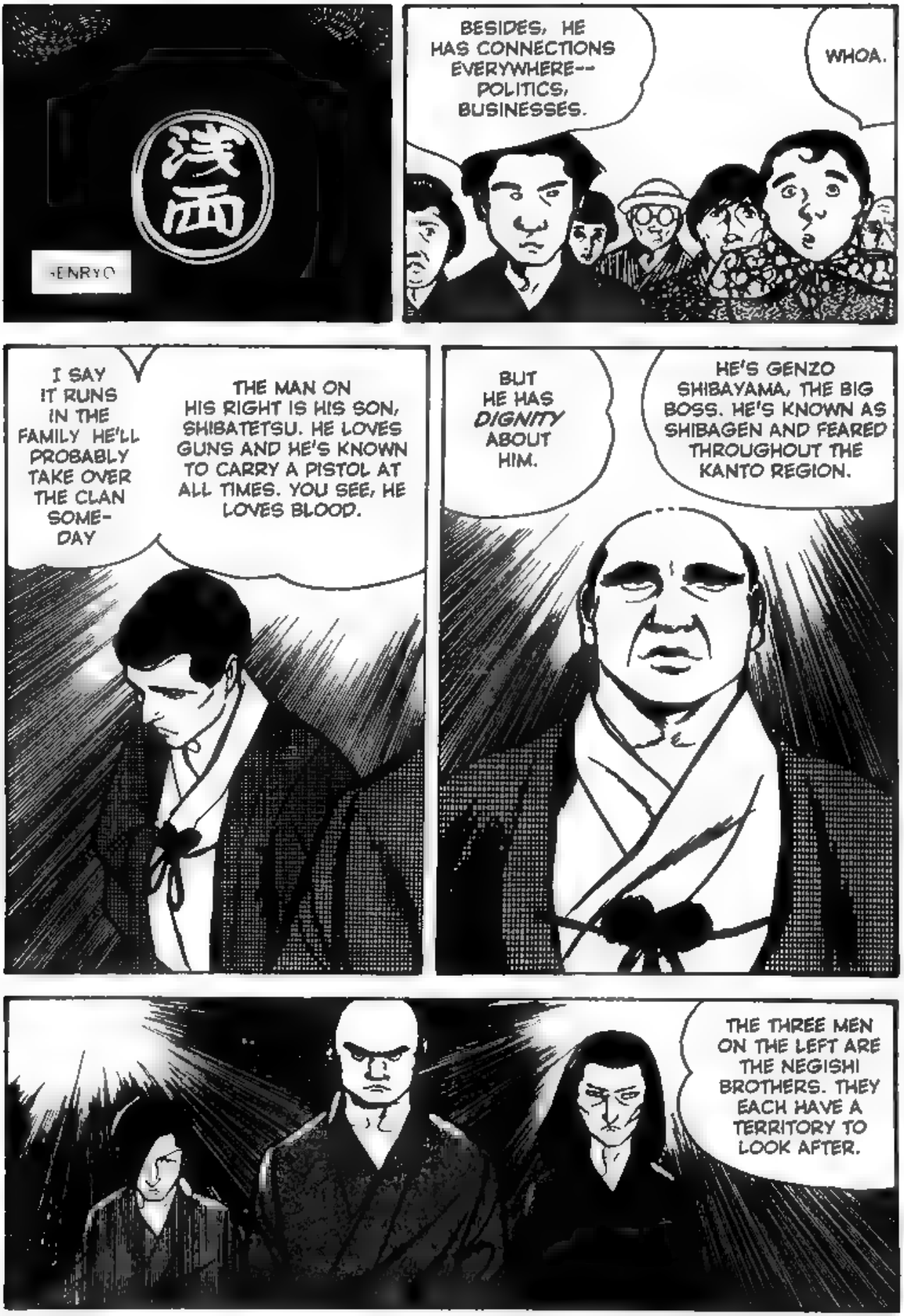
BILLIARD SHOP!
LOCK SMITH!




NAHI

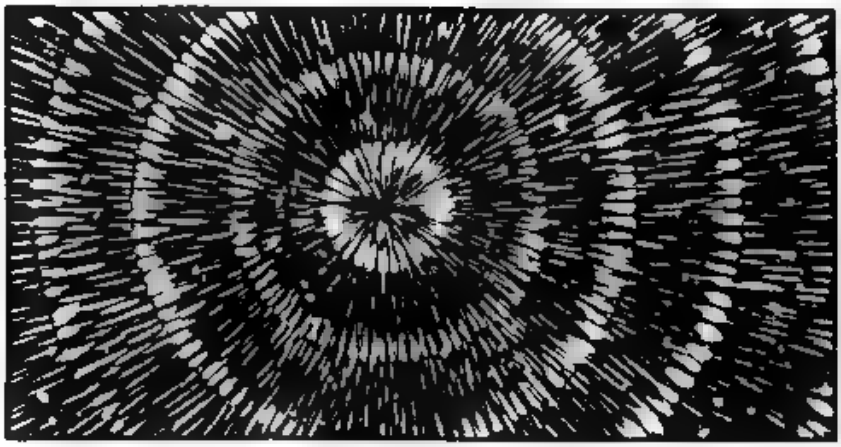
THERE'S SHIBAGEN!
KANTO SENRYO-KAI'S COMING!

THANKS.
MOVE IT!
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
YOU'VE HEARD OF KANTO SENRYOKAI-- THE MOB THAT CONTROLS ASAKUSA AND RYOGOKU
WH-WHO THE HELL IS HE?
YOU MEAN *YAKUZA*, HUH? BUT WHY ARE THE COPS HELPING HIM?
EVEN THE POLICE RESPECT HIM. AFTER ALL, HE'S GOT A HUGE ORGANIZATION WITH ABOUT 2,000 MEN. HE'S THE BIGGEST *OYABUN* IN KANTO.

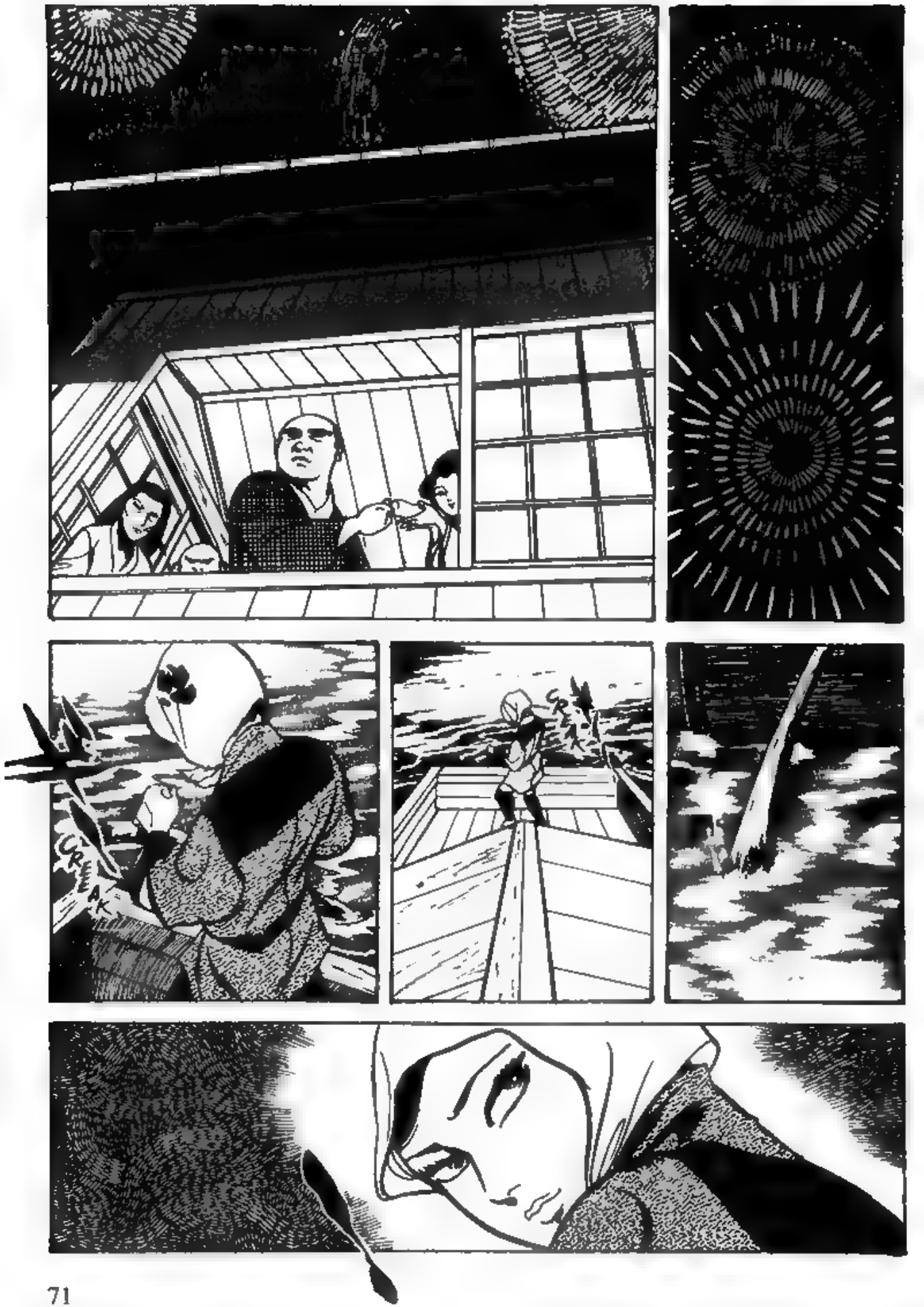

浅両
-ENRYO
BESIDES, HE HAS CONNECTIONS EVERYWHERE-- POLITICS, BUSINESSES.
WHOA.
I SAY IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE OVER THE CLAN SOME-DAY
THE MAN ON HIS RIGHT IS HIS SON, SHIBATETSU. HE LOVES GUNS AND HE'S KNOWN TO CARRY A PISTOL AT ALL TIMES. YOU SEE, HE LOVES BLOOD.
BUT HE HAS *DIGNITY* ABOUT HIM.
HE'S GENZO SHIBAYAMA, THE BIG BOSS. HE'S KNOWN AS SHIBAGEN AND FEARED THROUGHOUT THE KANTO REGION.
THE THREE MEN ON THE LEFT ARE THE NEGISHI BROTHERS. THEY EACH HAVE A TERRITORY TO LOOK AFTER.

I-I READ ABOUT THAT IN THE PAPERS. HE MUST'VE JUST GOTTEN OUT OF THE JAIL. H-HOW SCARY.
THE LONG-HAIRED ONE IS GENYOU, THE SLAYER HE'S A TOP KILLER. HE SLAUGHTERED ELEVEN MEN FROM SHIZUOKA'S KAWADA FAMILY DURING A FIGHT
THE BALD HEAD IS BUJI, THE KARATE MASTER. I HEAR HE CAN SMASH STONE LANTERNS TO PIECES WITH HIS FIST.
OH GOD. OH DEAR GOD.
THE THIRD ONE IS YOUZOU, THE BLADE THROWER. I HEAR HE CAN PIERCE DICE FROM EIGHTEEN FEET AWAY. THEY THINK KILLING PEOPLE WILL GIVE THEM MORE WEIGHT. I SAY, LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.

LOOK AT THE FIRE-WORKS.



POOM
POOM
POOOM

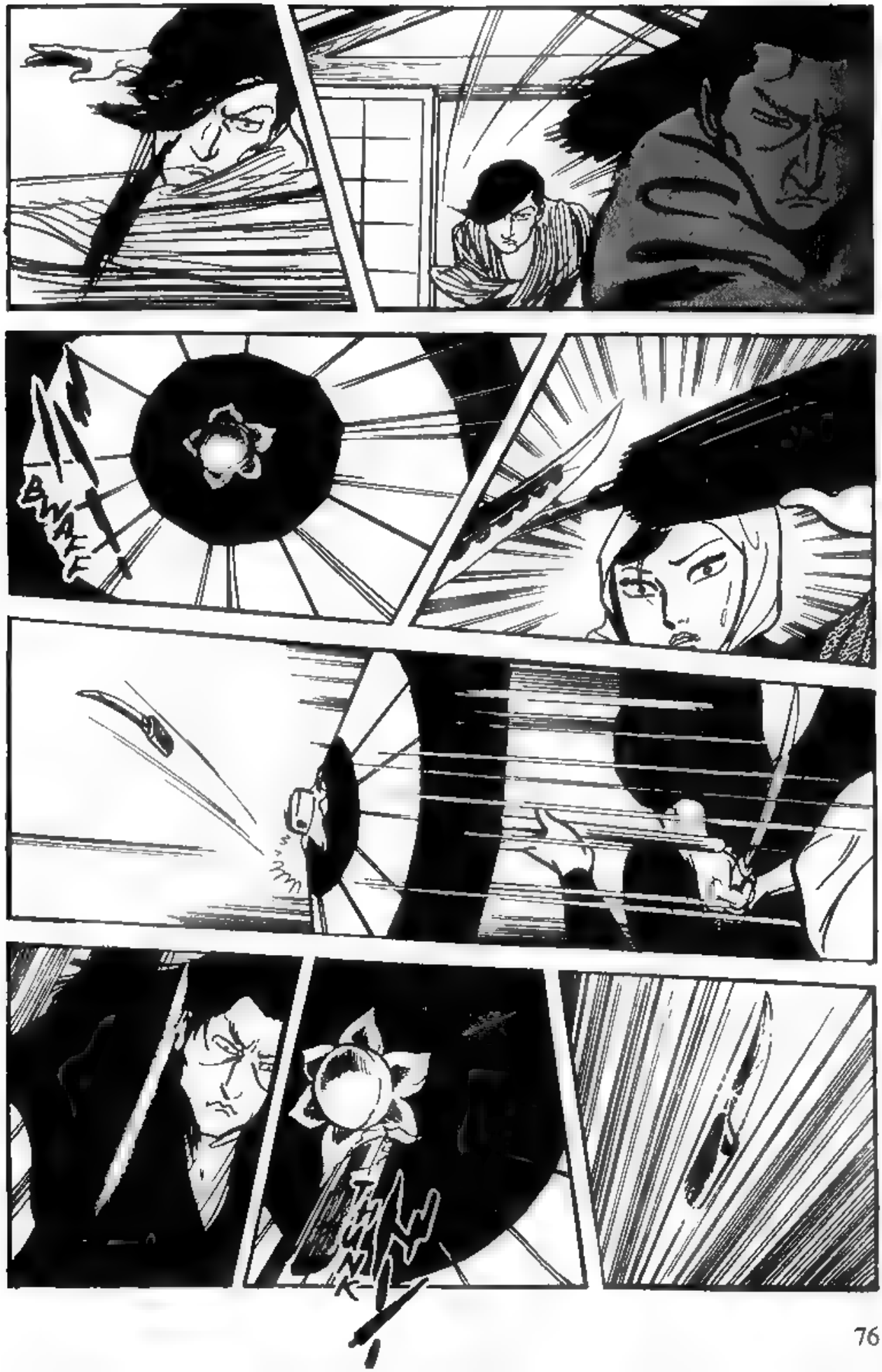

CREAK
CRE
AK

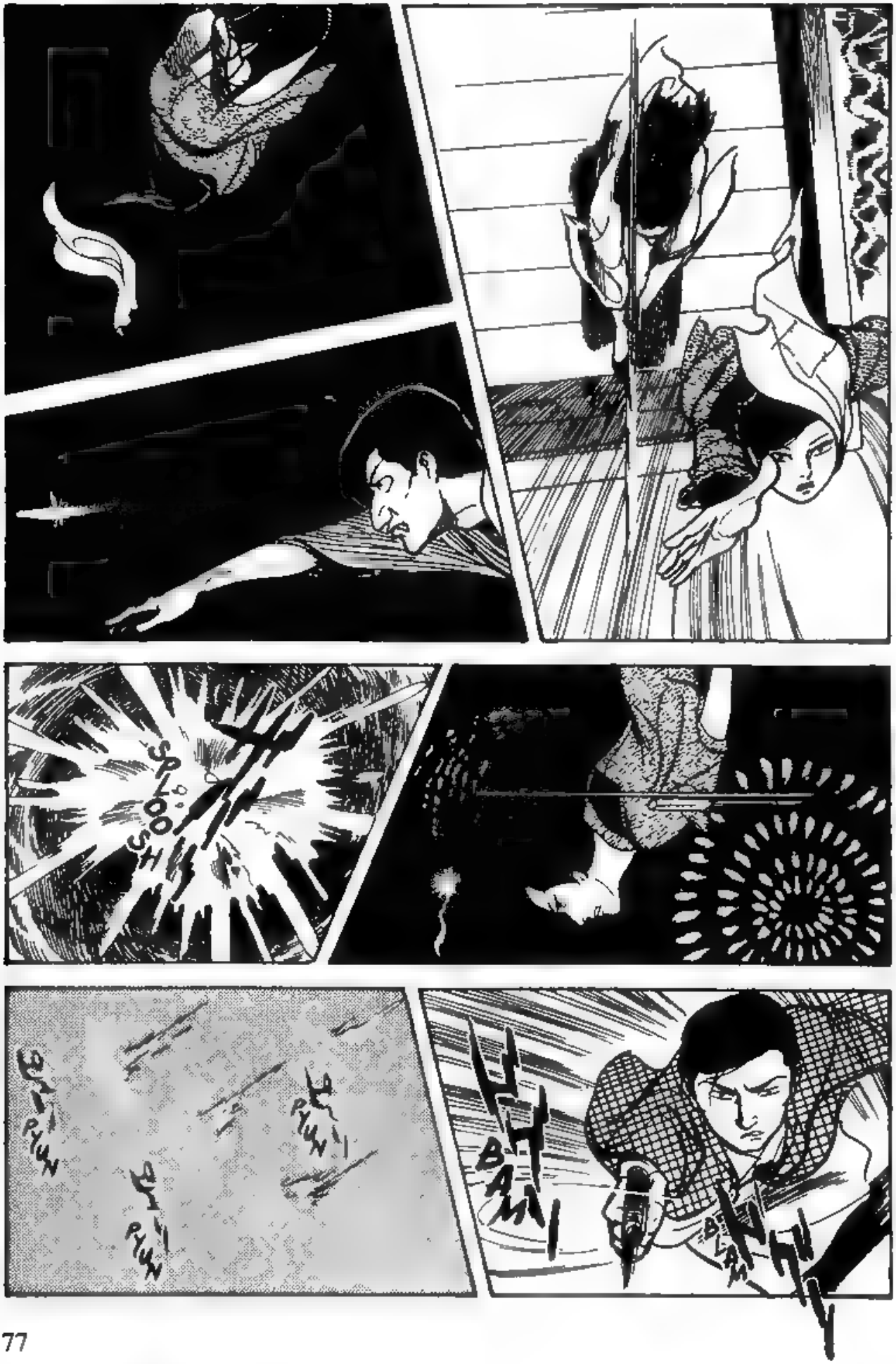
UNLESS I KILL ALL FIVE OF THEM AT ONCE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DESTROY SENRYOKAI. EVEN IF I KILL SHIBAGEN, IF ANY ONE OF THE OTHER FOUR SURVIVES, HE'LL JUST TAKE OVER.
BUT IF I CAN GET THEM ALL, THE ORGANIZATION WILL CRUMBLE IT'LL STIR UP A BIG FIGHT OVER WHO'LL SUCCEED.
THEY'LL BE TOO BUSY WITH THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING LIKE A GREAT HALL OF PANORAMA.
SHREEE
I MUST FINISH THEM RIGHT HERE AND NOW--

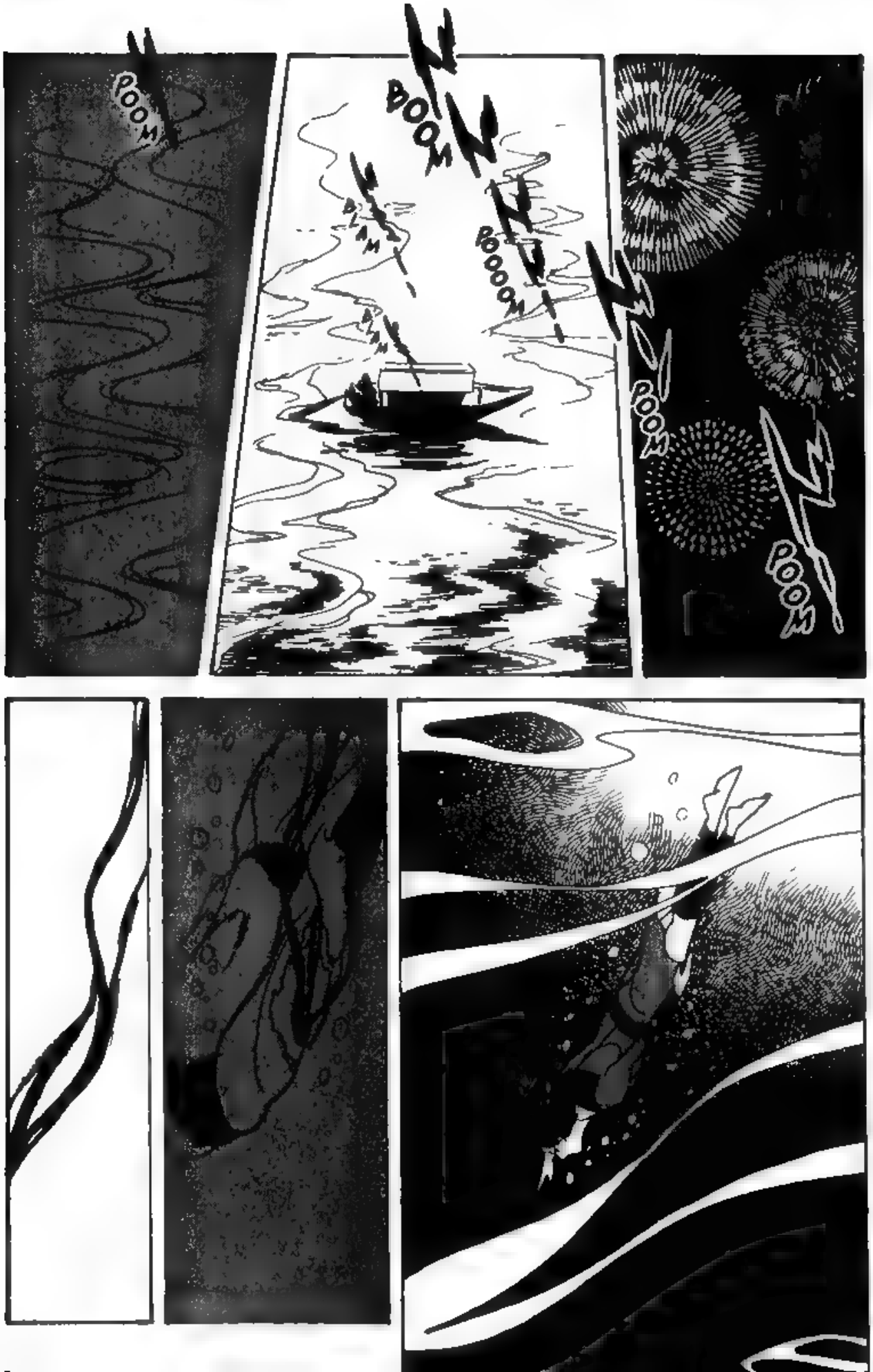
POOM POOM
I'LL OVERTURN THE BOAT AND LAUNCH AN ATTACK IN THE WATER--
POOM POOOM
WHAT'S WRONG, ANIKI?
コト!
スッ
SHUU

WHAT?
AN ASSAS-SIN.
CREEAK
CREAK
CREAK
Y-YES, SIR.
BOAT-MAN
PLOSSH

IS IT SUPPOSED TO RAIN OR WHAT?
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE WELL PREPARED, BASTARD.
HUH!
BA
SHU!
SHIIING


BWAFF
THUNK


SPLOOSH
BAM!
BAM!
PYUN
PYUN
PYUN


BOOM
BOOM
BOOOOM
BOOM
BOOM

OYUKI... HURRY!
SPLASH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. JUST HURRY.
Y-YOU'RE HURT.
ROKUE, HOW COME YOU'RE HERE?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET AWAY. THEY SENT A SIGNAL FROM THE BOAT. THEIR MEN ON THE BANKS ARE ON ALERT.

TAKE THAT OFF.
QUICK!
THERE! OVER THERE!
AYAAHHH! HELP!
LET ME TAKE YOUR PLACE FOR NOW.
R-ROKUE!
CREAK
CREAK

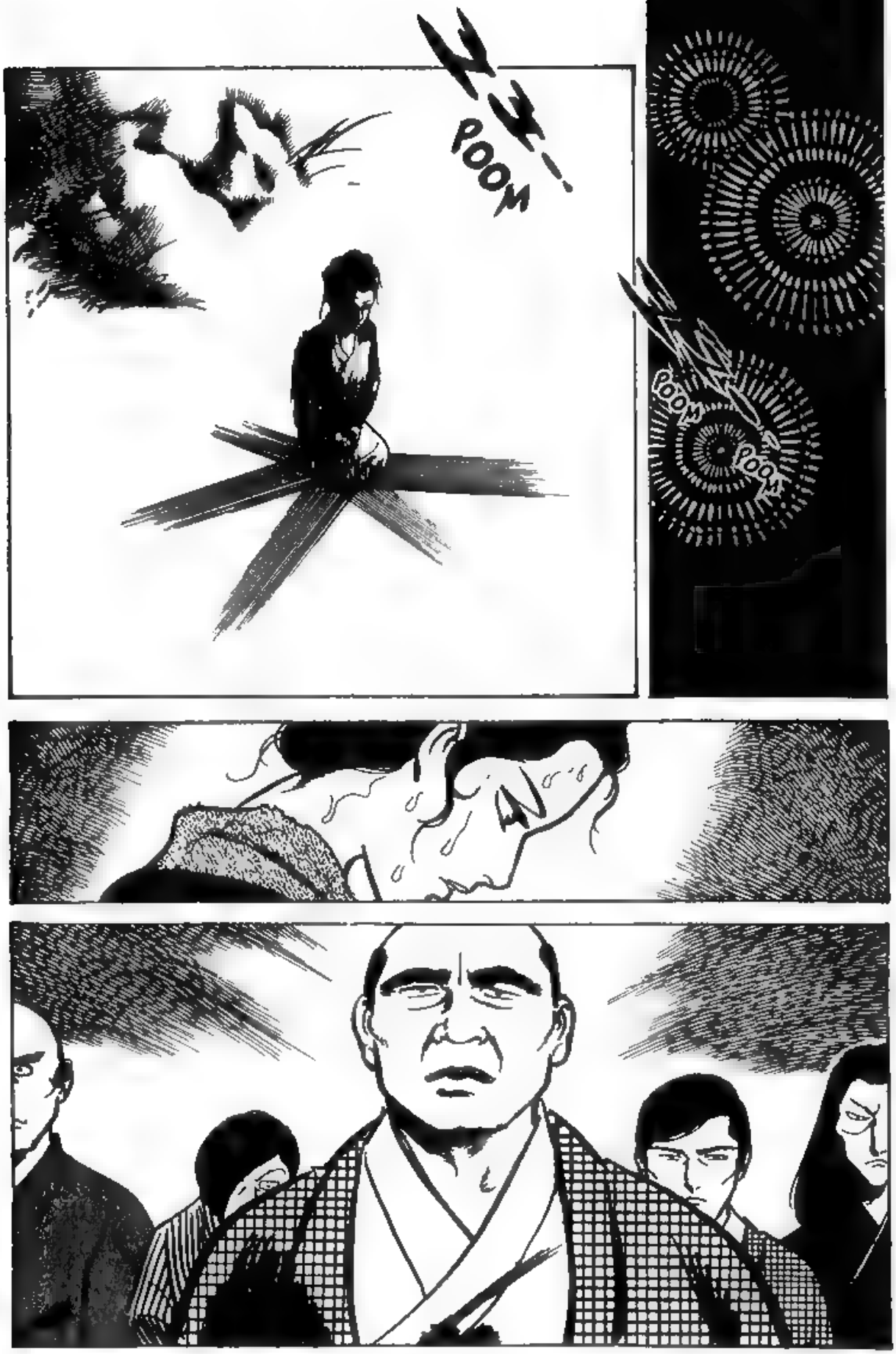
HEY, HE JUMPED OFF.
AH.
GO AFTER HIM!

NO USE STRUG-GLING.
GRAB!
NO!

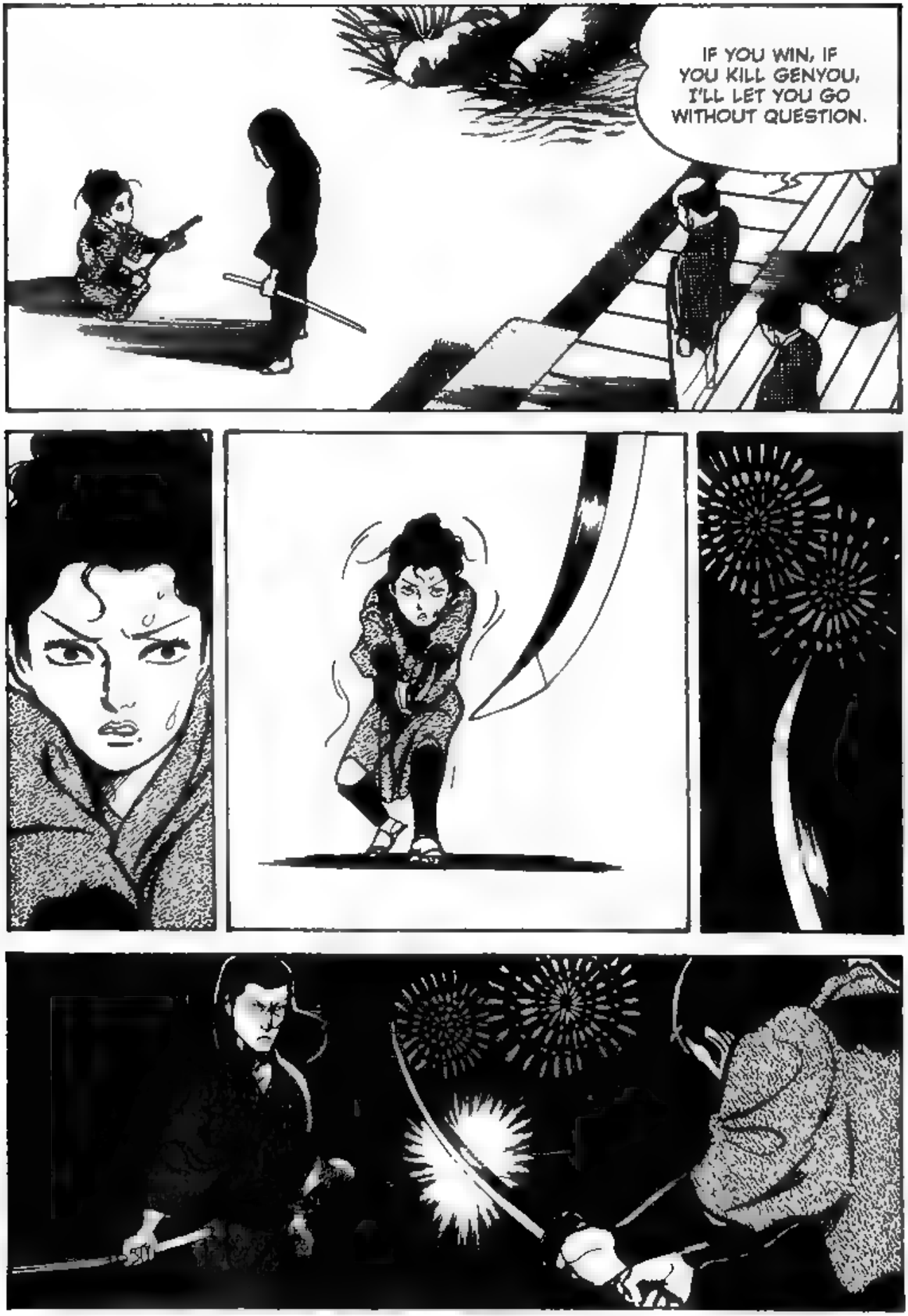
外題之十
女意和戸開帳異聞二
EPISODE 10
UNVEILING OF A PRETTY WOMAN AND A STRANGE TALE, PART 2

ドーン
BOOM
ドーン
BOOOM

関東煎亭会
KANTO
SENRYOKAI

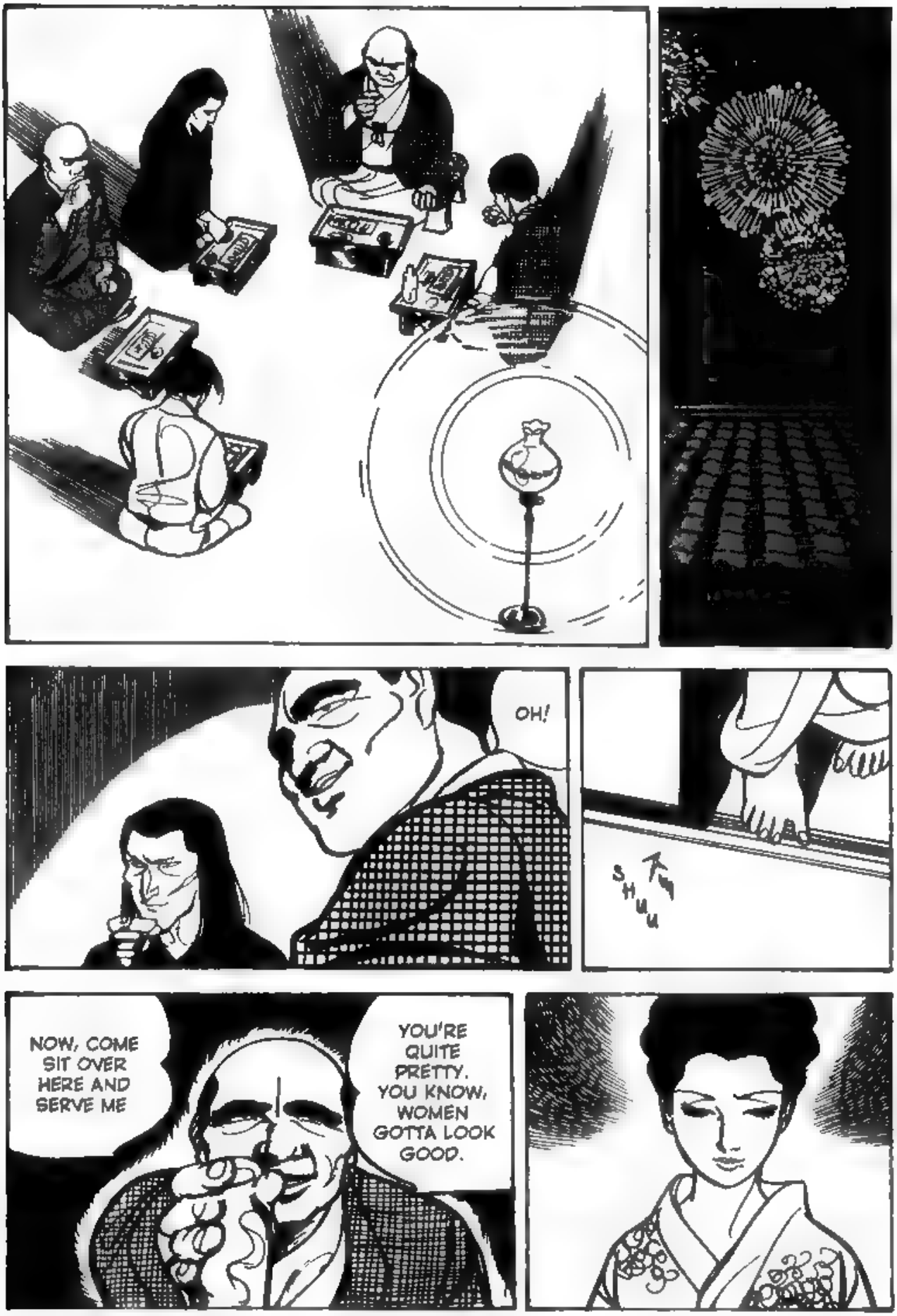

ヒュー…
POOM
POOM
POOM

HERE.
...
YOU WILL FIGHT ME.
AH!
BESIDES, I DIDN'T EXPECT A *WOMAN.*
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING THE WAY YOU STOPPED GENYOU'S ATTACK AND KNOCKED ASIDE YOUZOU'S BLADE. I MUST SEE IT AGAIN.


IF YOU WIN, IF YOU KILL GENYOU, I'LL LET YOU GO WITHOUT QUESTION.

UHH!
FOOM
AIEE
SSSSH
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

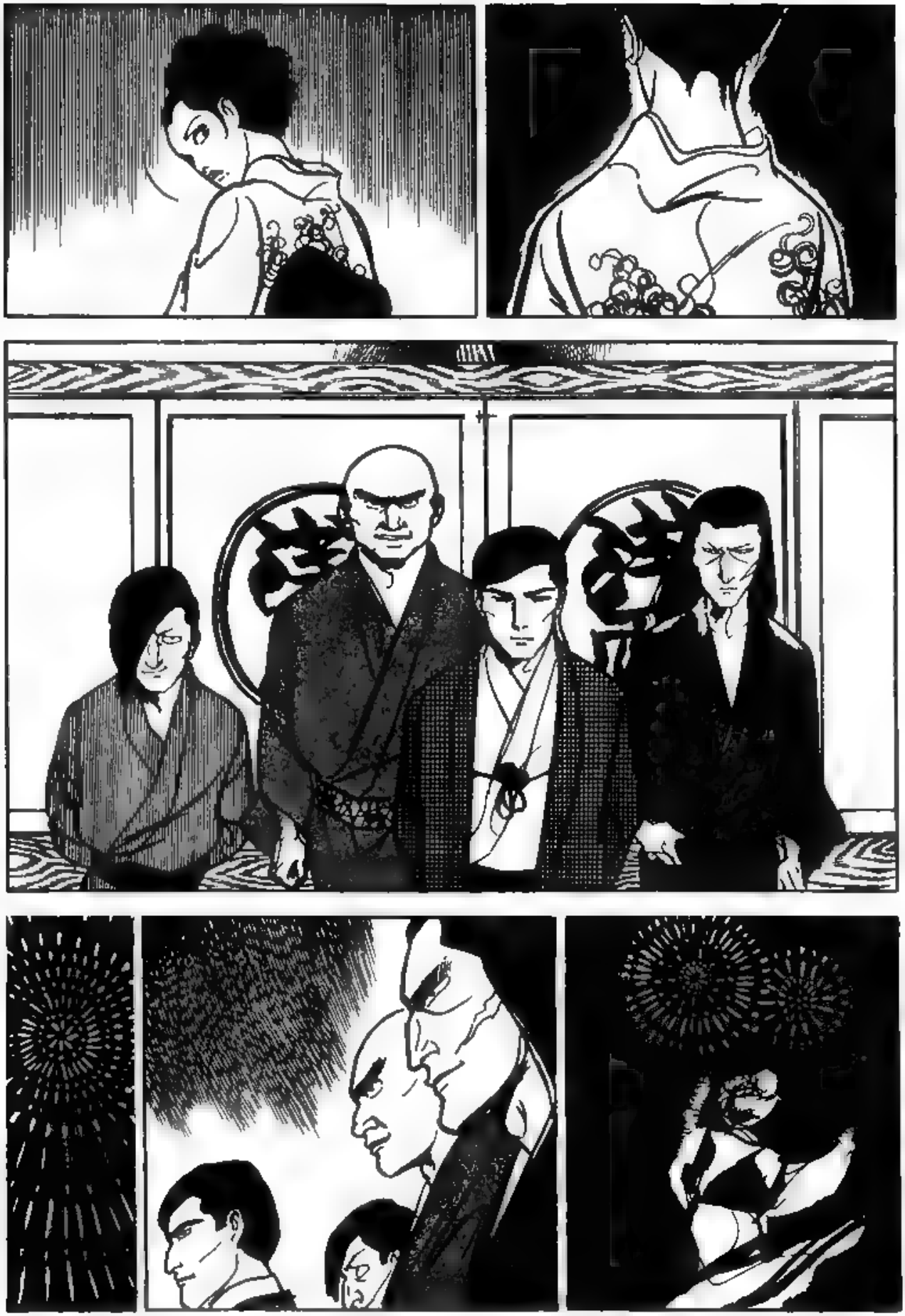
I KNEW A WOMAN COULDN'T HAVE MASTERED A SKILL LIKE THAT LOOKS LIKE HE FOOLED US.
DRY YOURSELF AND PUT ON SOMETHING ELSE THEN YOU'LL TAKE YOUR TIME AND TELL US EVERYTHING
YOU MUST'VE SWITCHED PLACES WITH HIM ON THAT BOAT. WHICH MEANS I'LL HAVE TO QUESTION YOU.
DON'T WORRY. I HATE KILLING OR HURTING WOMEN.
WHEW!
YES, SIR.
TETSU, TAKE CARE OF HER


OH!
SHUU
NOW, COME SIT OVER HERE AND SERVE ME
YOU'RE QUITE PRETTY. YOU KNOW, WOMEN GOTTA LOOK GOOD.

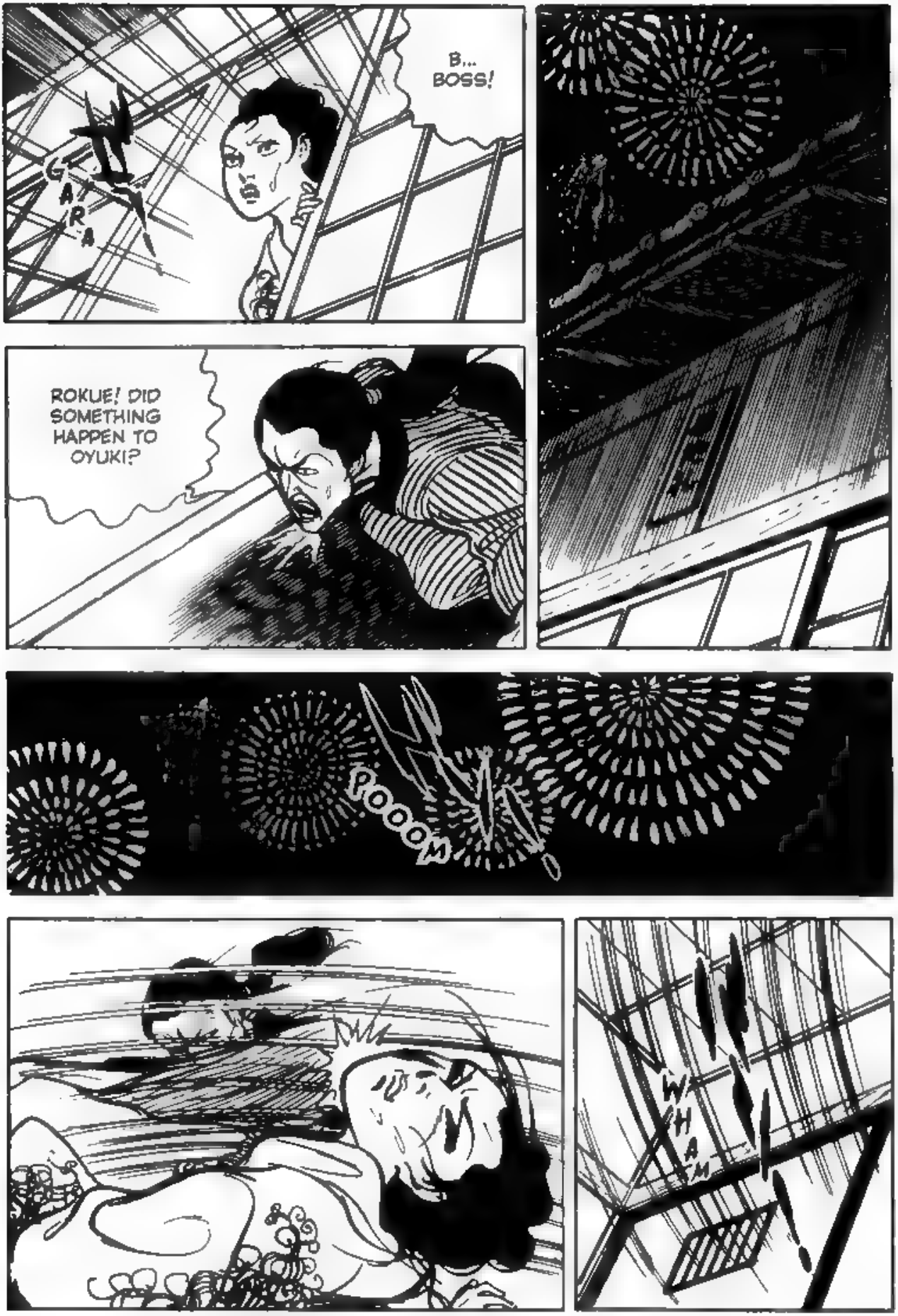
WILL YOU TELL ME WHO IS THE MAN YOU SWITCHED PLACES WITH?
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
WHEN A WOMAN TRIES TO SAVE A MAN BY RISKING HER OWN LIFE, IT'S USUALLY FOR SOMEONE SHE'S IN LOVE WITH.
...
...
NOW, LOOSEN UP
EVEN IF YOU WON'T TELL US ANYTHING, WE WON'T TOUCH YOU. JUST RELAX AND HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK, HUH?
THROWING AWAY YOUR OWN LIFE TO SAVE A MAN. THAT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO DO. I LIKE IT. I LIKE THAT SPIRIT OF YOURS.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY FOOL WHO'D COME AGAINST KANTO SENRYOKAI. NOT HERE IN TOKYO. AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH OUR BUSINESS RIGHT NOW. I DOUBT WE'VE DONE ANYTHING THAT'D BRING ABOUT A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST US EITHER. SO I DON'T GET IT
I WANT TO ASK YOU A FAVOR I WANT YOU TO WARN HIM COMING UP AGAINST US IS NOTHING BUT POINTLESS. TELL HIM TO STOP BEING STUPID.
I APPLAUD YOUR COURAGE, AND I'LL CONSIDER WHAT HAPPENED TODAY AS WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. BUT DON'T YOU EVER SHOW UP HERE AGAIN
KRAK
...THEN YOU'LL BE--
IF YOU DIDN'T LEARN YOUR LESSON, AND COME BACK AGAIN...

GOT IT? VALUE YOUR LIFE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT GRUDGE YOU HAVE, BUT PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR LOT IN LIFE.
YES, SIR.
TETSU, SEE HER OFF.



SPIT
HA HA!

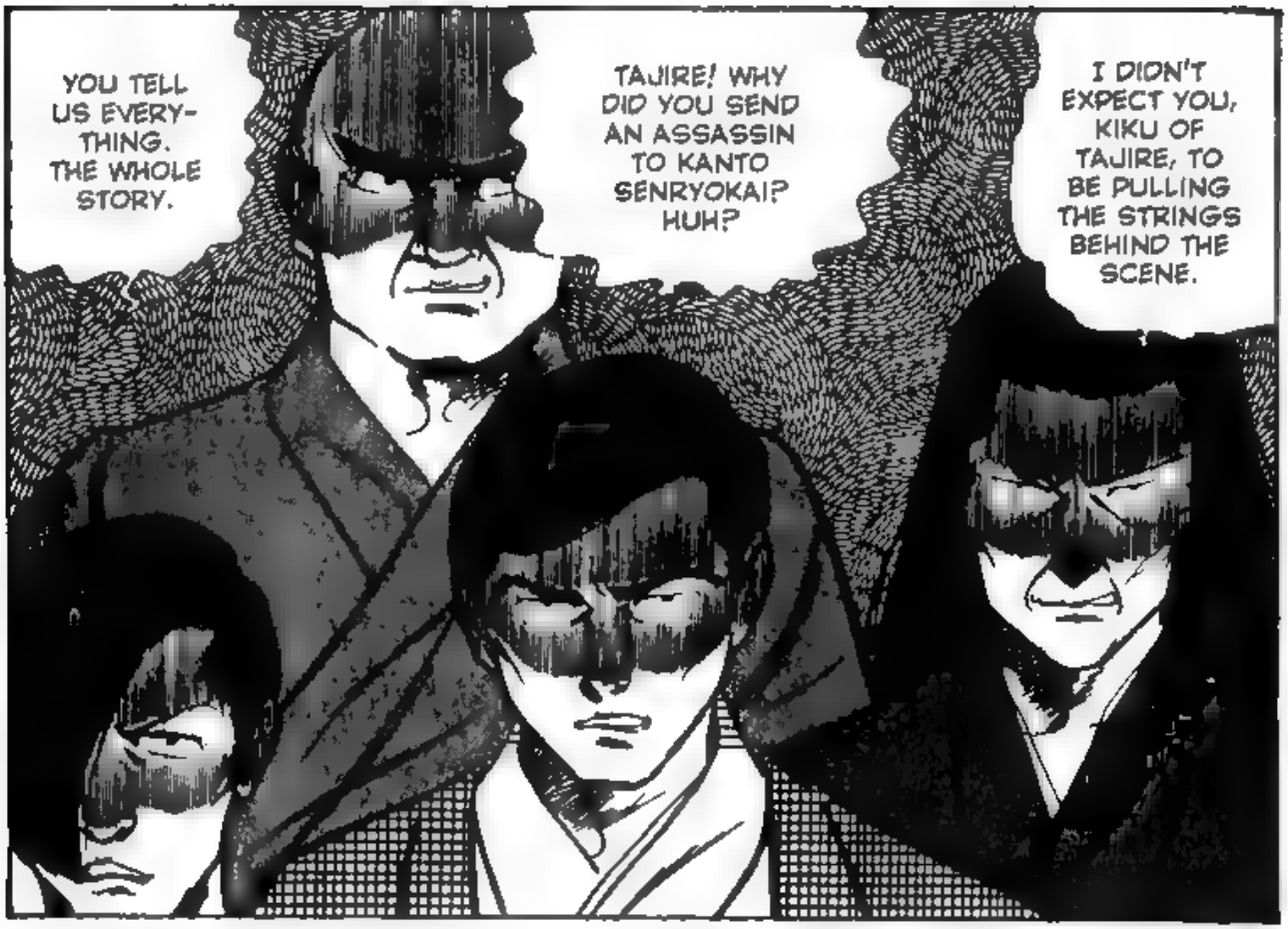

B... BOSS!
GAIRA
ROKUE! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO OYUKI?
POOOM
WHAM

POOM
POOOM
ROKUE . I'M COMING FOR YOU NOW.

BAM
SLAPP
WHAK
YOU IDIOT! W-WHY DIDN'T YOU COME AND TELL ME RIGHT AWAY?! I TOLD YOU TO SHADOW OYUKI. I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO MEDDLE!
OYUKI IS SOMEONE WHO DOES THINGS ALONE. SHE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE HELPED. WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TELL ME BEFORE IT GOT SO DANGEROUS, YOU ROTTEN WENCH?!
DID YOU THINK SHE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU TAKE HER PLACE? WHAT YOU DID WILL ONLY DRIVE HER TO A TIGHTER CORNER.

IF YOU CAME TO ME THE MOMENT YOU REALIZED SHE WAS GOING UP AGAINST KANTO SENRYOKAI, I COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING. BUT GETTING YOURSELF INVOLVED DIDN'T HELP AT ALL.
OYUKI MIGHT BE ALREADY ON HER WAY TO RESCUE YOU...B-BUT FOR HER TO DARE AND GO AFTER SHIBAGEN... OYUKI...SHE MIGHT...
B-BOSS... K-KA-KAN--
THUM THUM THUM THUM
GYAHH
...!!

AIEE--
K-KANTO SENRY-OKAI...

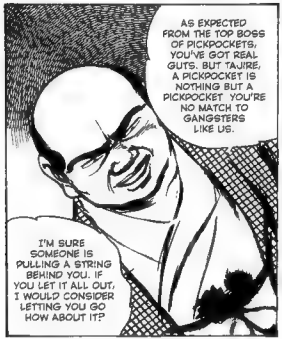

YOU TELL US EVERY-THING. THE WHOLE STORY.
TAJIRE! WHY DID YOU SEND AN ASSASSIN TO KANTO SENRYOKAI? HUH?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU, KIKU OF TAJIRE, TO BE PULLING THE STRINGS BEHIND THE SCENE.

ARE YOU NO LONGER CONTENT WITH JUST A PICKPOCKETING TERRITORY? IS THAT IT? OR DID YOU MAKE AN ALLIANCE WITH NODERA-GUMI OF KANSAI?
UH... UH...

Y-YOU SAID YOU'D LET ME GO FREE ..
WE COULD'VE TORTURED YOU AND MADE YOU SQUEAL, BUT A PRETTY WOMAN IS FASTER TO UNZIP BY FLATTERING HER, LETTING HER GO FREE, AND FOLLOWING HER. IT'S TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR YOU TO REALIZE THAT NOW. HEH HEH HEH
NOW, YOU COME WITH US.
YOU'D BETTER NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE KANTO SENRYOKAI.
MM...

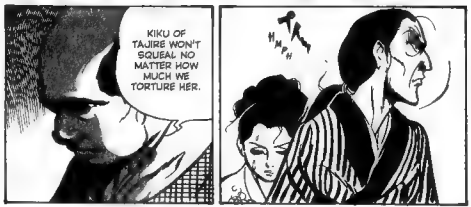
関東浪而会
KANTO
SENRYOKAI

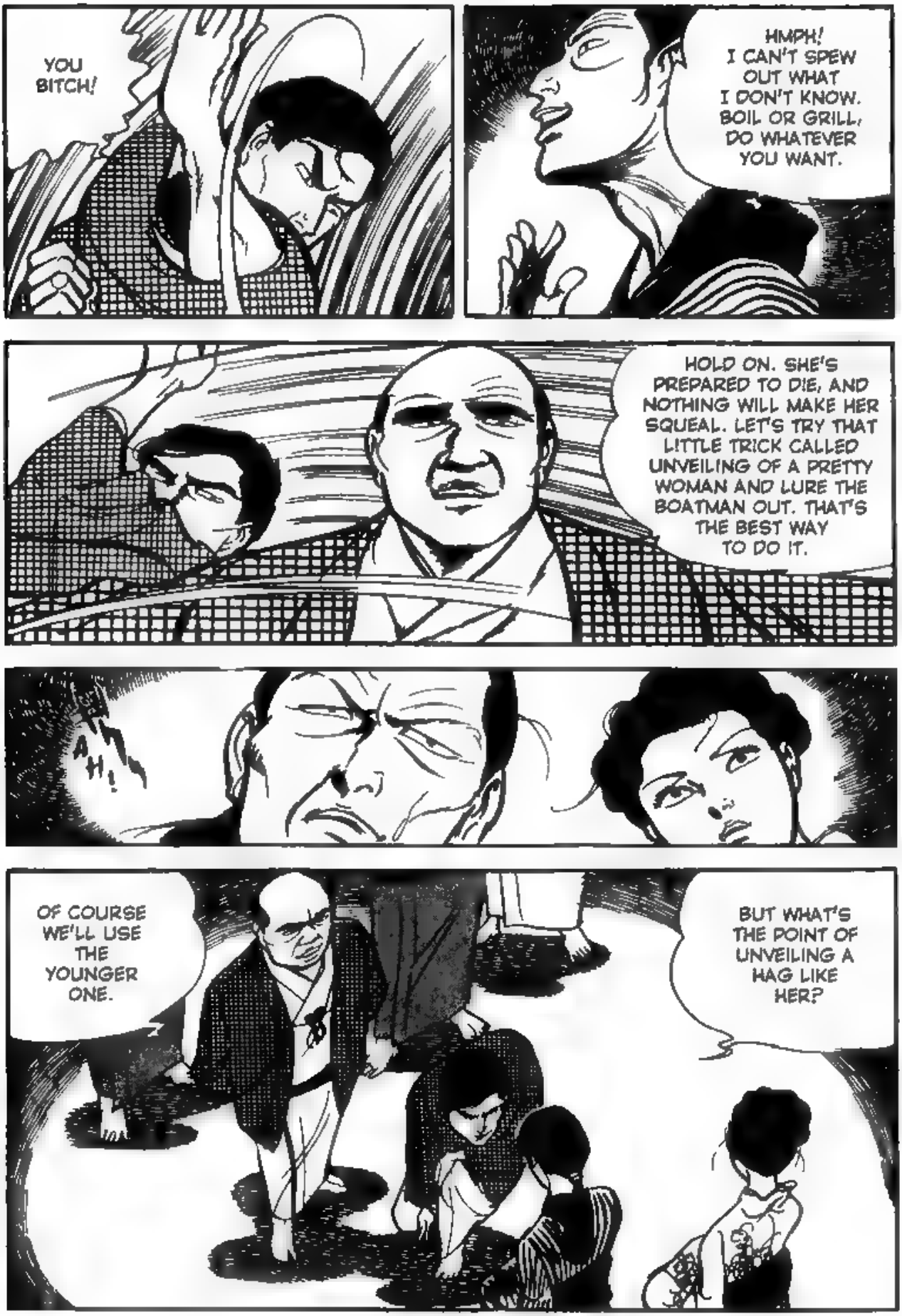
YOU HAG! WHAT'RE YOU SCHEMING BY SENDING AN ASSASSIN TO KANTO SENRYOKAI? ARE YOU AFTER OUR TERRITORY? OR AFTER OUR BOSS? IF YOU WON'T TALK, YOU'RE DEAD!


AS EXPECTED FROM THE TOP BOSS OF PICKPOCKETS, YOU'VE GOT REAL GUTS. BUT TAJIRE, A PICKPOCKET IS NOTHING BUT A PICKPOCKET. YOU'RE NO MATCH TO GANGSTERS LIKE US.
I'M SURE SOMEONE IS PULLING A STRING BEHIND YOU. IF YOU LET IT ALL OUT, I WOULD CONSIDER LETTING YOU GO. HOW ABOUT IT?

YOU GOT IT RIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, I WON'T TALK. AND ROKUE WON'T EITHER. BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING

HE'S DAMN SKILLED. WE CAN'T FEEL EASY WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM ROAMING ABOUT NOW. SAY IT!
WHO THE HELL WAS THAT BOATMAN!?

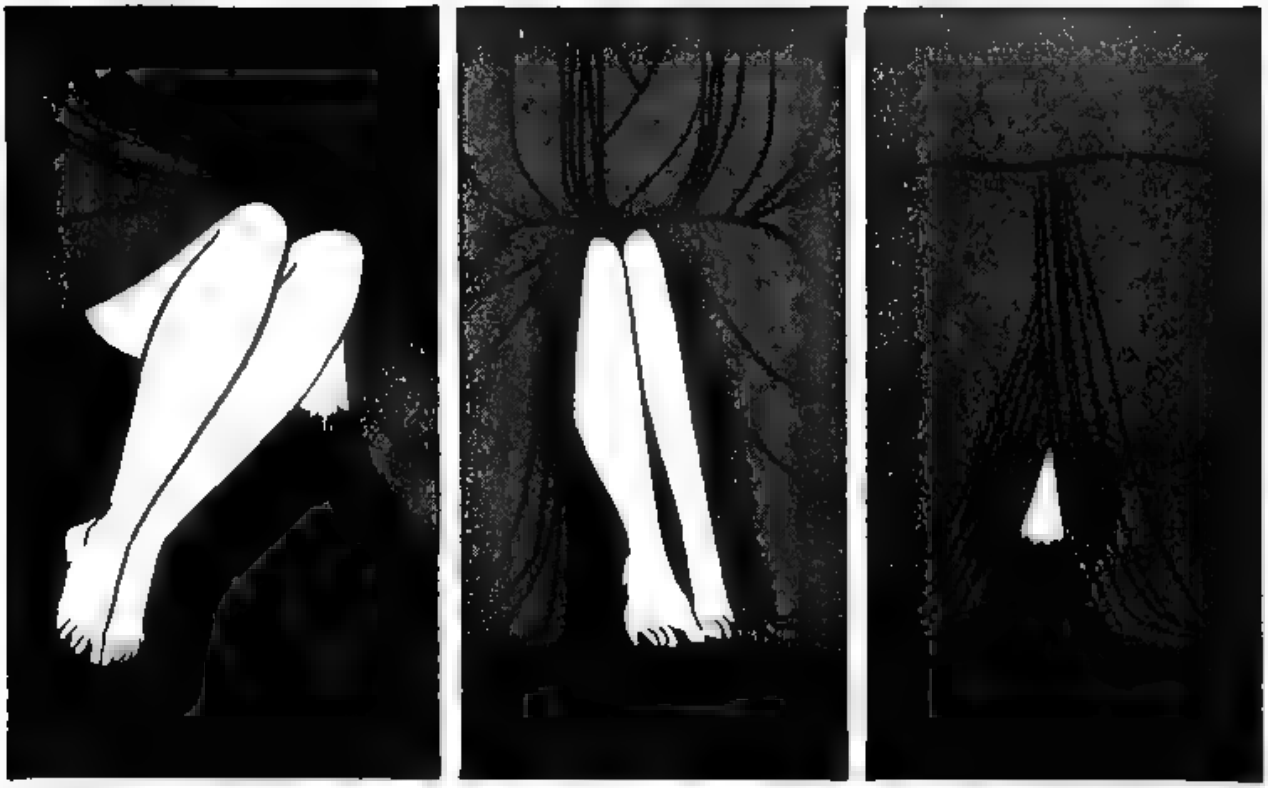

KIKU OF TAJIRE WON'T SQUEAL NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE TORTURE HER.


YOU BITCH!
HMPH! I CAN'T SPEW OUT WHAT I DON'T KNOW. BOIL OR GRILL, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
HOLD ON. SHE'S PREPARED TO DIE, AND NOTHING WILL MAKE HER SQUEAL. LET'S TRY THAT LITTLE TRICK CALLED UNVEILING OF A PRETTY WOMAN AND LURE THE BOATMAN OUT. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DO IT.
AH!
OF COURSE WE'LL USE THE YOUNGER ONE.
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF UNVEILING A HAG LIKE HER?

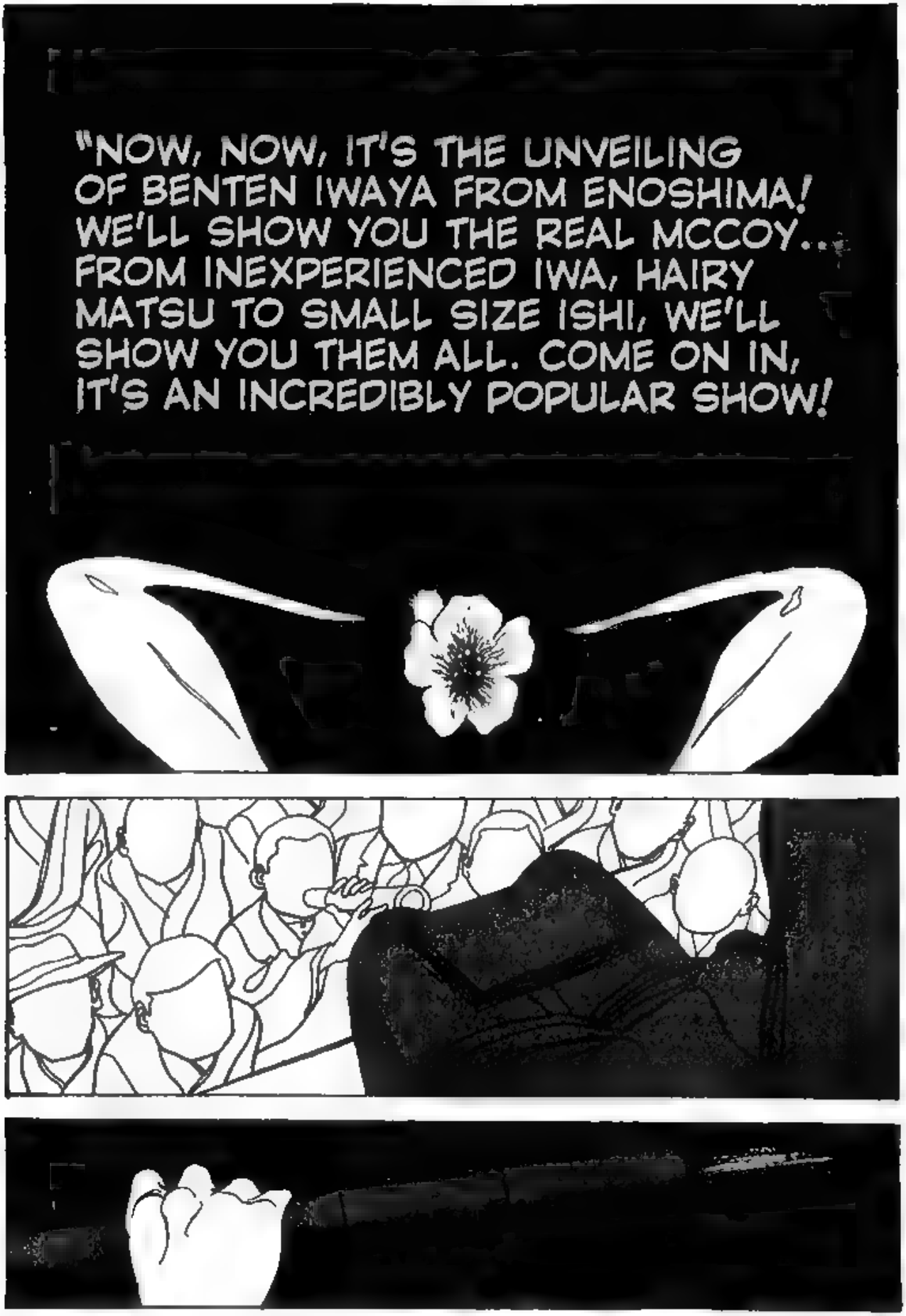
D...DO YOU MEAN TO PUT ROKUE THROUGH THAT?
TAJIRE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT UNVEILING A PRETTY WOMAN IS ABOUT?
MM...
SINCE YOU WON'T TALK, IT CAN'T BE HELPED WE'LL LURE HER MAN OUT BY PUTTING HER THROUGH OUR LITTLE SHOW BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TALK
B-BOSS... I-I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME. SO PLEASE--
ROKUE!
AFTER A WOMAN GOES THROUGH THAT, SHE BECOMES USELESS WE STOPPED DOING IT NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE A WOMAN TO DO IT BUT ALSO WE RECEIVED A NOTICE FROM THE AUTHORITIES AGAINST IT. BUT IT'S A GREAT CASH COW I SAY, WE CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE. HEE HEE. I'LL LET YOU HAVE A GOOD SEAT RIGHT UP FRONT.

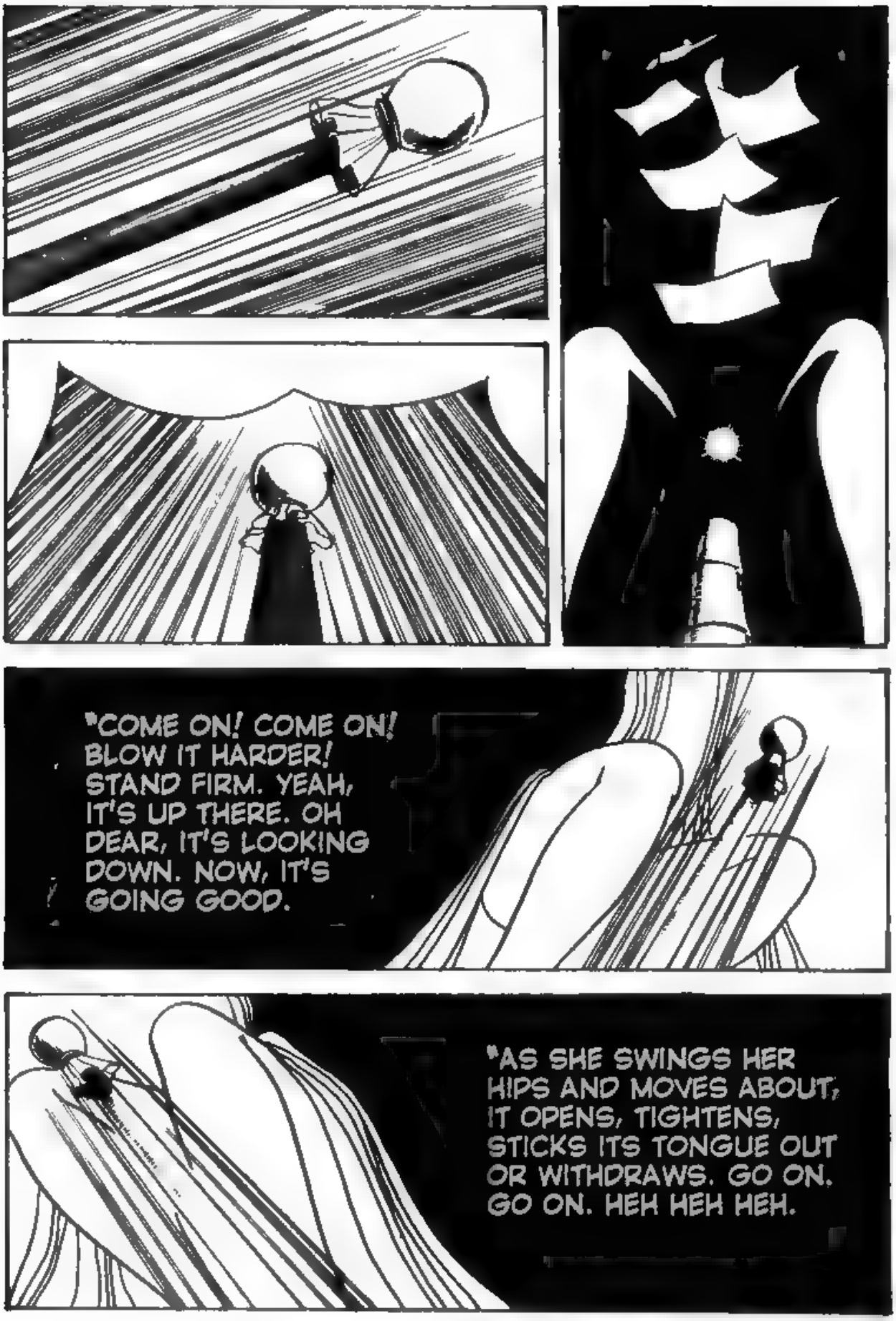
YOUNG WOMAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT UNVEILING IS ABOUT?
HEH HEH HEH, IT WILL BE CRUEL TO PUT YOU THROUGH IT WHEN YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

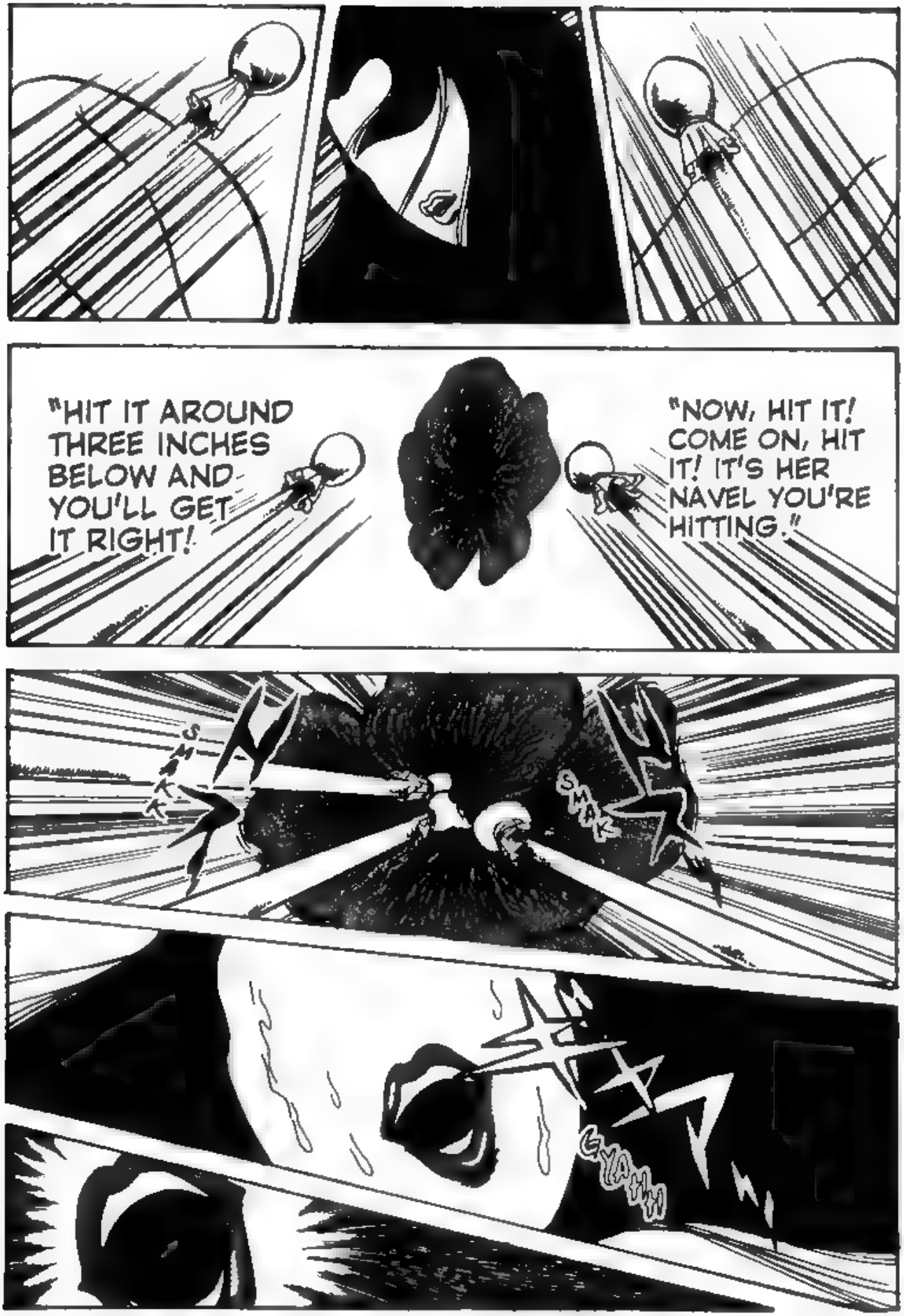
IT BASICALLY WORKS AS FOLLOWS: BUILD AN ENCLOSED HUT AND PLACE A PLATFORM WITH A CHAIR IN THE CENTER. HAVE A YOUNG WOMAN PUT ON MAKE-UP AND WEAR A LONG, ELEGANT GARMENT. THEN HAVE HER SIT ON THE CHAIR. HER BACK AND HIP SHOULD BE PRESSED AGAINST A WOODEN SLAB, AND MAKE SURE HER BACK CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ENTRANCE. PAINT A PICTURE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WITH LOTS OF ORNAMENTS ON HER HAIR WITH THE HEM OF HER GARMENT DRAPED OVER A WOODEN SLAB ON HER RIGHT. PLACE THE PICTURE ABOVE THE ENTRANCE AND INVITE SPECTATORS INSIDE FOR EIGHT *MON*. LIFT THE WOMAN'S GARMENT AND REVEAL HER VAGINA. TAKE A BAMBOO TUBE AND BLOW, AND HER HIPS WILL SWING RIGHT AND LEFT. (FROM *MORISADA MANKO*)



"C'MON NOW, IT'S A SUPER POPULAR UNVEILING SHOW. THERE IT COMES. HERE IT COMES. THERE'S ANOTHER. OOOH, IT'S TOO MUCH. LOOK UP AND DOWN. IT'S ONLY EIGHT *SEN*, AND WE CAN TELL WHO LIKES THIS SORT OF THING JUST BY THE WAY THEY LOOK. BUT HOW CAN ANYONE HATE IT... THAT'S WHY. THAT'S THE REASON.


"NOW, NOW, IT'S THE UNVEILING OF BENTEN IWAYA FROM ENOSHIMA! WE'LL SHOW YOU THE REAL MCCOY... FROM INEXPERIENCED IWA, HAIRY MATSU TO SMALL SIZE ISHI, WE'LL SHOW YOU THEM ALL. COME ON IN, IT'S AN INCREDIBLY POPULAR SHOW!


"COME ON! COME ON! BLOW IT HARDER! STAND FIRM. YEAH, IT'S UP THERE. OH DEAR, IT'S LOOKING DOWN. NOW, IT'S GOING GOOD.
"AS SHE SWINGS HER HIPS AND MOVES ABOUT, IT OPENS, TIGHTENS, STICKS ITS TONGUE OUT OR WITHDRAWS. GO ON. GO ON. HEH HEH HEH.

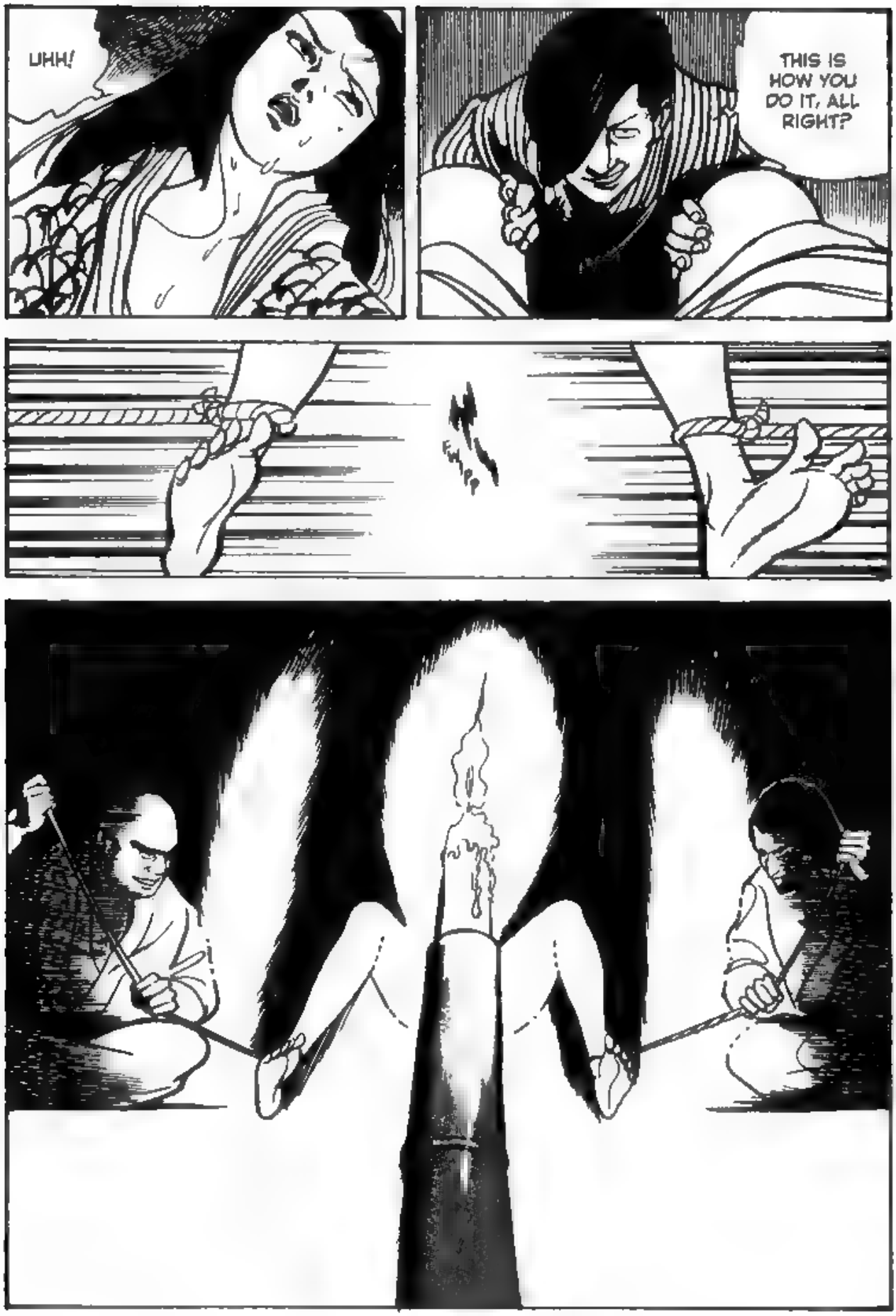

"HIT IT AROUND THREE INCHES BELOW AND YOU'LL GET IT RIGHT!
"NOW, HIT IT! COME ON, HIT IT! IT'S HER NAVEL YOU'RE HITTING."
SMAK
SMAK
GYAAH!!

MM...
FLAPP
GET READY!

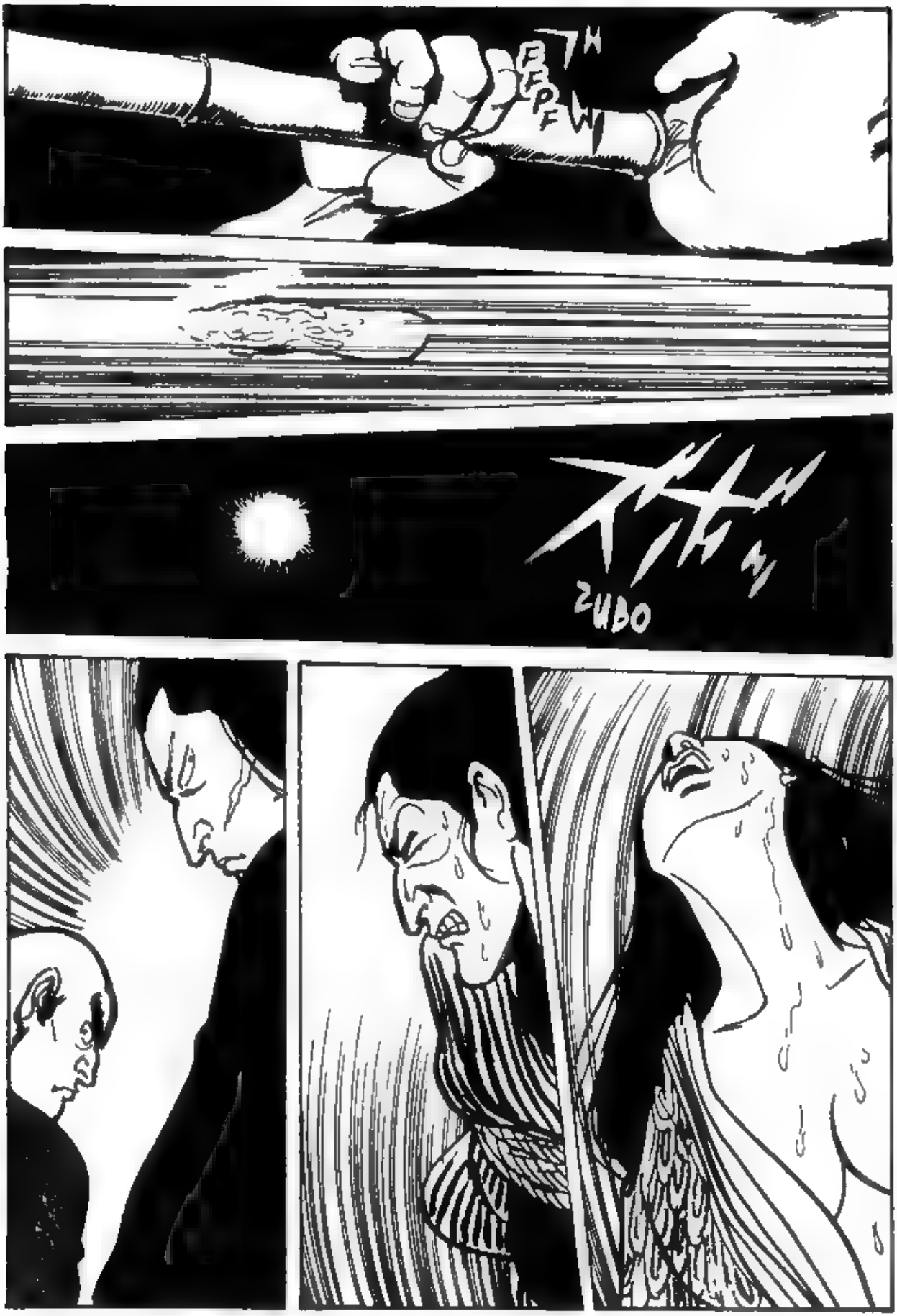
PYUU

PUT THIS ON.
HEH HEH HEH, I'M SURE IT'LL BE A SUCCESS, EVEN THOUGH YOUR PRETTY VAGINA WILL BE MESSED UP WITH SCARS.
WE'VE GOTTA HAVE YOU START RIGHT AWAY. PRACTICE IS IMPORTANT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT WITH A GOOD WORKOUT TONIGHT, AND THEN YOU'LL GET OUT THERE AND PERFORM TOMORROW.

UNABLE TO BEAR AND WATCH, YOUR LOVER WILL BE SURE TO COME OUT. HEE HEE HEE.
LET'S BEGIN!


UHH!
THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT, ALL RIGHT?
FWIP

HEE HEE HEE LET ME WET YOU WITH THIS CANDLE AND PENETRATE YOU FIRST.


ZUDO

WHO IS IT?
Y-YUKI!

MASTERS OF SENRYOKAI, PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR TRESPASSING UPON YOUR GARDEN.

I AM KNOWN AS *SYURA YUKI*. DISGUISED AS A BOATMAN, I CAUSED YOU TROUBLE EARLIER.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
ARE YOU TELLING US *YOU'RE* THAT GUY WHO CAME AFTER US?
WHAT?!
A WOMAN COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT KINDA STUNT! LOOK, WHY DID YOU COME HERE?

YOU SAID YOU'RE *SYURA YUKI* JUST NOW. I'VE HEARD THAT NAME. SUPPOSED TO BE A HIGHLY SKILLED FEMALE ASSASSIN WHO CHARGES HUGE FEES.
QUICK!
Y-YUKI, DON'T! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THEM. FORGET US AND GET AWAY!
OYUKI!
THE WAY THEY REACTED, I SAY SHE MIGHT BE TELLING THE TRUTH.
NOW THAT THE VERY PERSON YOU WANT IS IN FRONT OF YOU, PLEASE LET THEM GO FREE.
THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. THEY WERE MERELY TRYING TO PROTECT ME. AND THAT'S WHY I'VE COME.

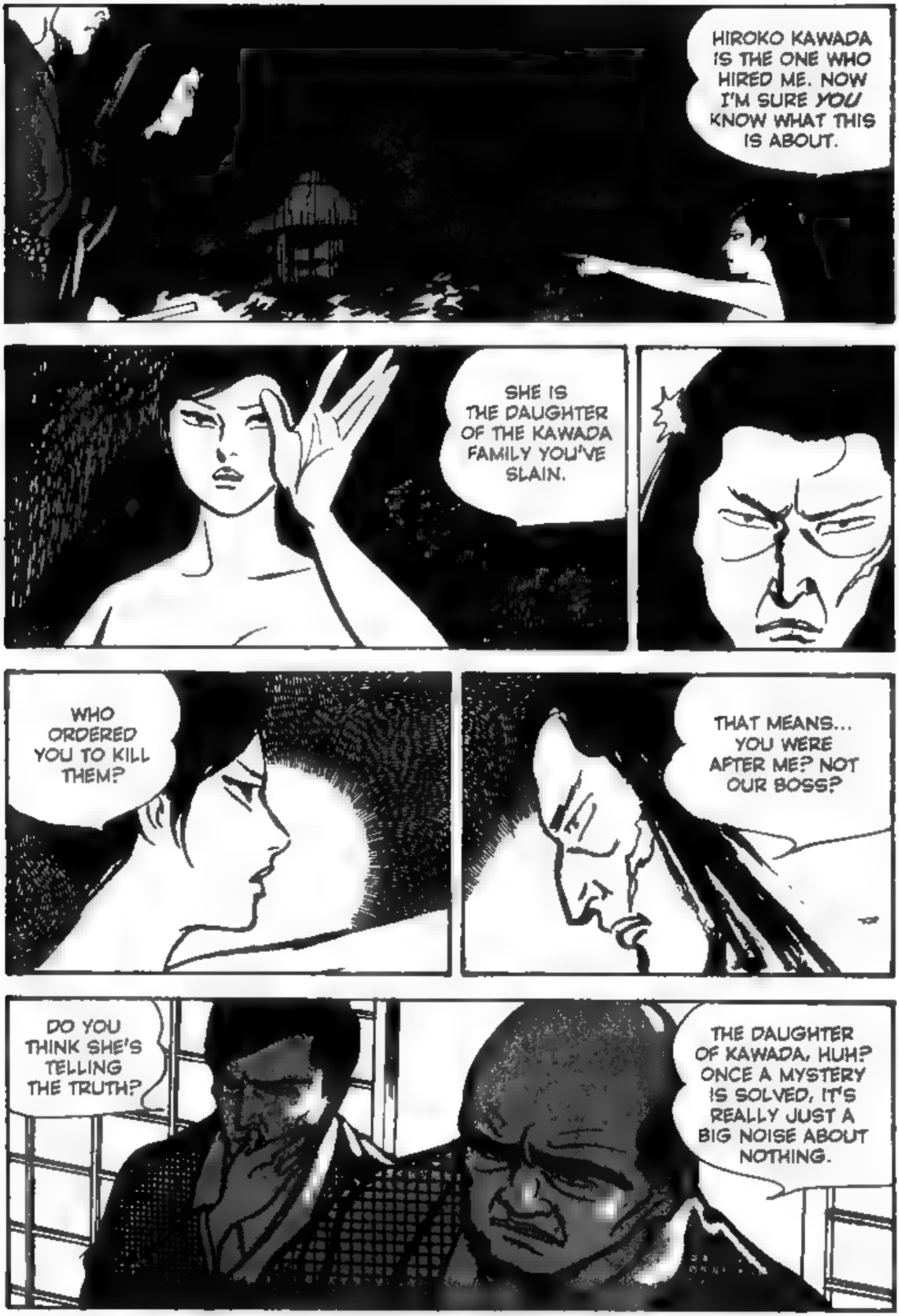
BYU
LOOKS LIKE IT'S HER.
HMPH!
BEFORE I DO, I WANT YOU TO LET THEM GO
WHO TOLD YOU TO KILL OUR BOSS? SAY IT!

YOU SURE HAVE TINY BALLS FOR A YAKUZA WHO'S NAME IS PRACTICALLY GOD THROUGHOUT THE KANTO REGION. HA HA HA.
HO
HO
HO-HO
NOT A CHANCE. IF YOU DON'T TALK, THEY'RE DEAD
LOOK, I'VE COME WITH NO WEAPONS WHATSOEVER
SWUPP

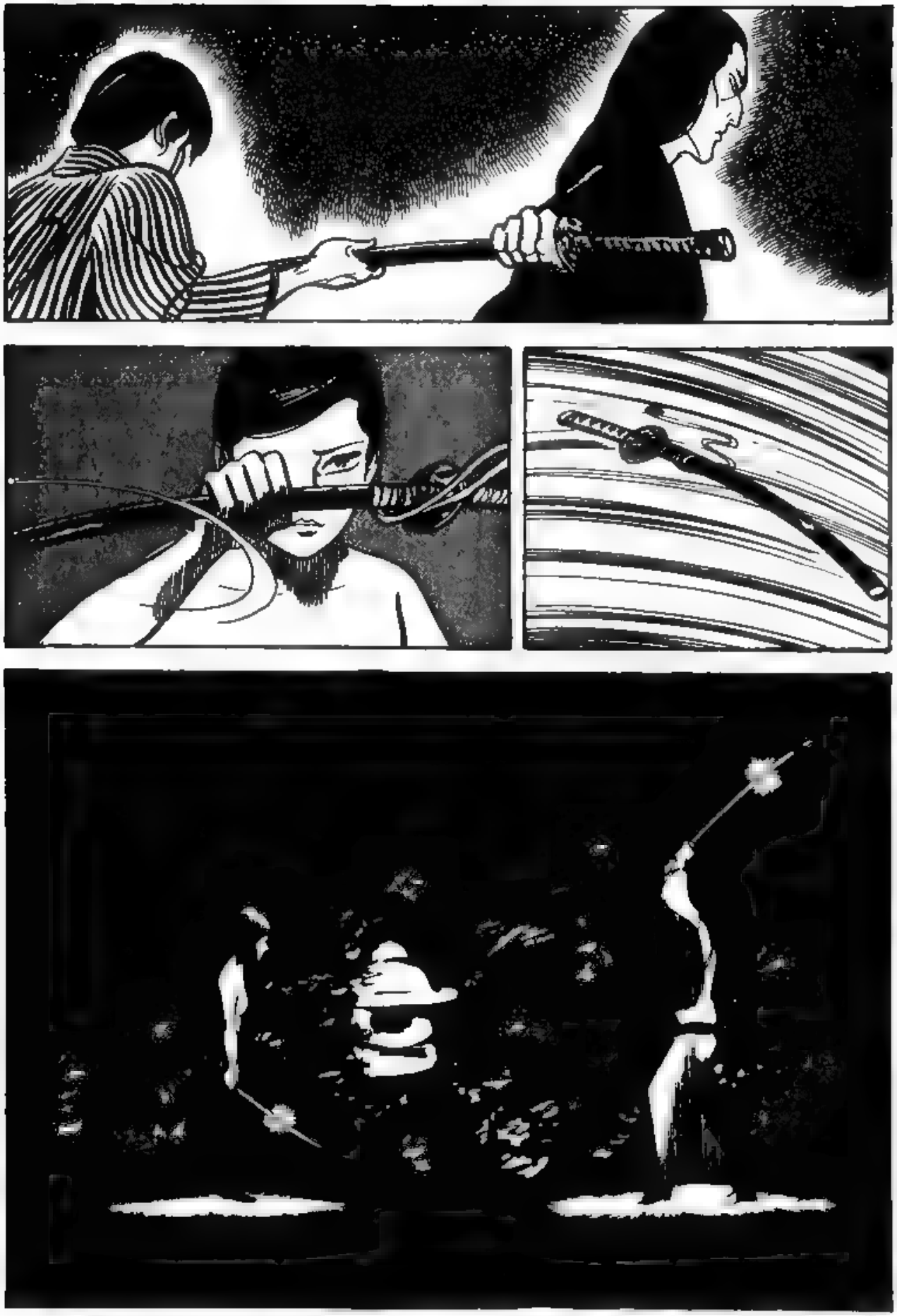
LOOK, I'M HERE, READY TO DIE AND WITHOUT EVEN A KNIFE ON ME. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THEM, I WILL DIE WITHOUT TELLING YOU ANYTHING, AND YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHO HIRED ME.
I'M TELLING YOU THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. NOBODY BUT ME KNOWS WHO HIRED ME. EVEN IF IT COSTS THEM THEIR LIVES, THEY CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING.
LET 'EM GO FREE.
YOU HAVE REAL GUTS NO WONDER YOU CALL YOURSELF SYURA YUKI.
YUKI!
SNIK
YES, SIR.

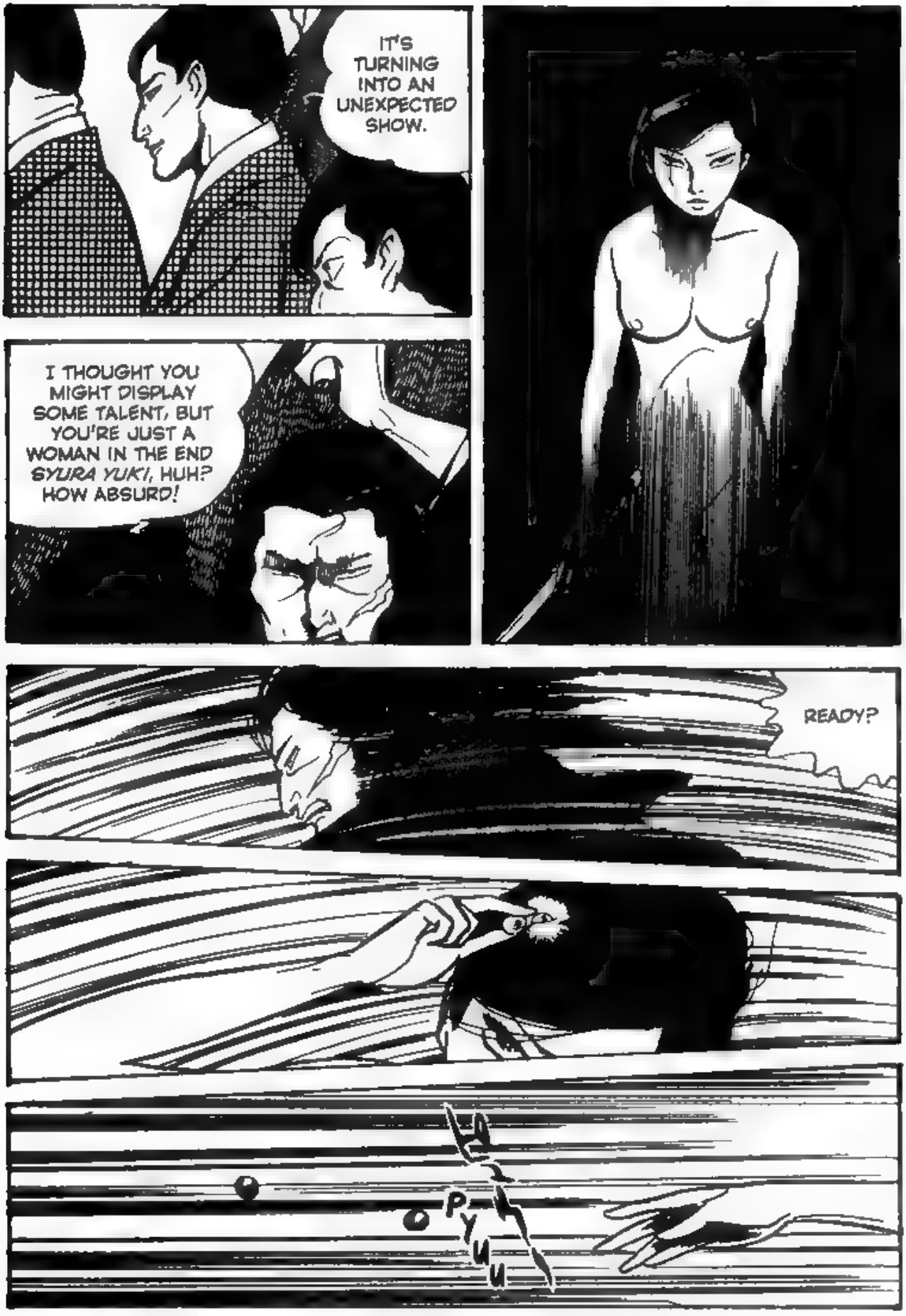
DON'T!
Y-YUKI .
PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY AFFAIRS ANYMORE.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE ALONE IF I CAN'T SAVE YOU, WE'LL DIE TOGETHER
HURRY AND GO HOME! OTHERWISE, WE'LL ALL END UP DEAD.
THROW 'EM OUT!
SO LONG AS THEY'RE HERE, I WILL NOT SAY A WORD.

YUKI!!!
NOW, YOU TELL US.

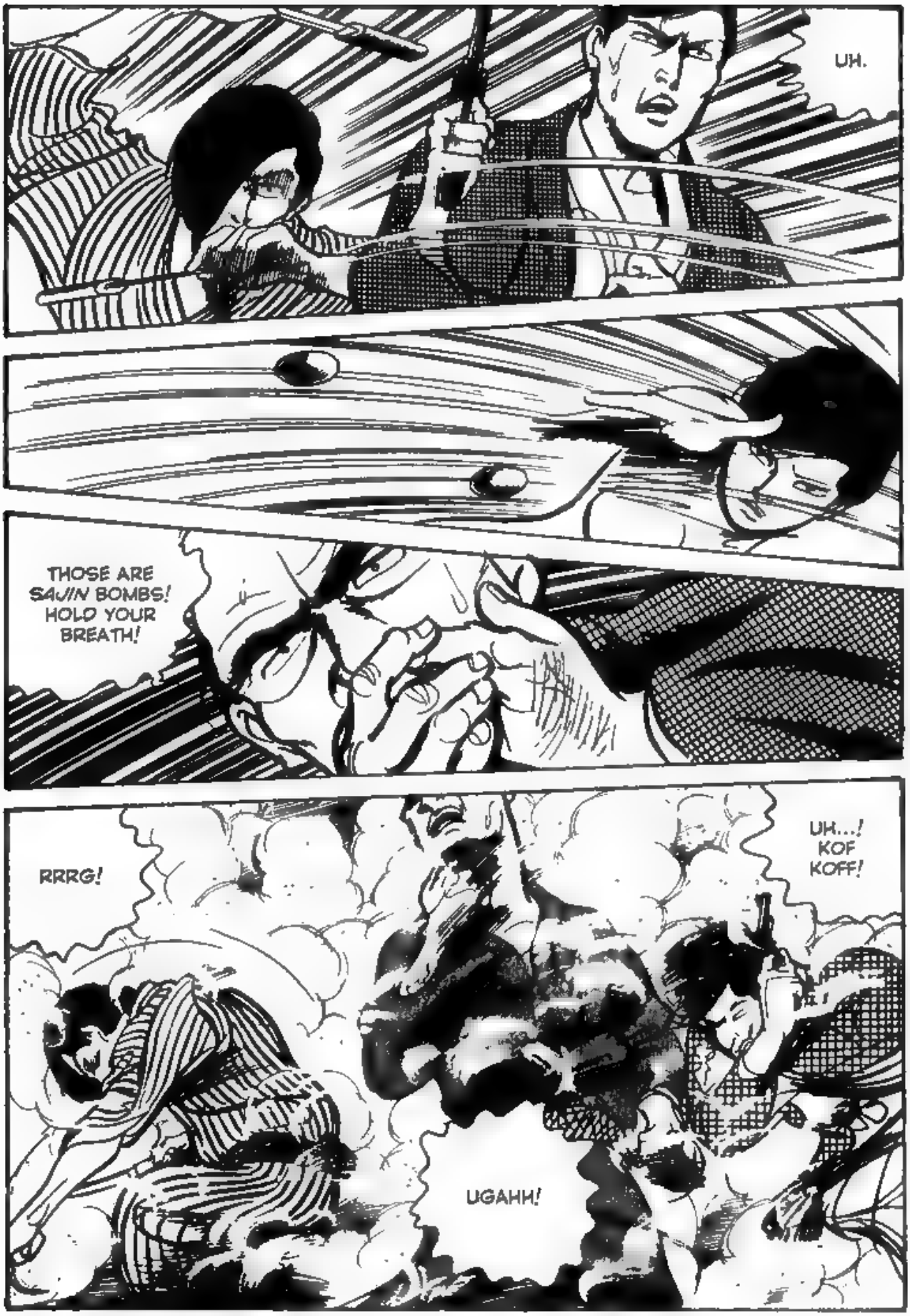

HIROKO KAWADA IS THE ONE WHO HIRED ME. NOW I'M SURE *YOU* KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE KAWADA FAMILY YOU'VE SLAIN.
WHO ORDERED YOU TO KILL THEM?
THAT MEANS... YOU WERE AFTER ME? NOT OUR BOSS?
DO YOU THINK SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH?
THE DAUGHTER OF KAWADA, HUH? ONCE A MYSTERY IS SOLVED, IT'S REALLY JUST A BIG NOISE ABOUT NOTHING.

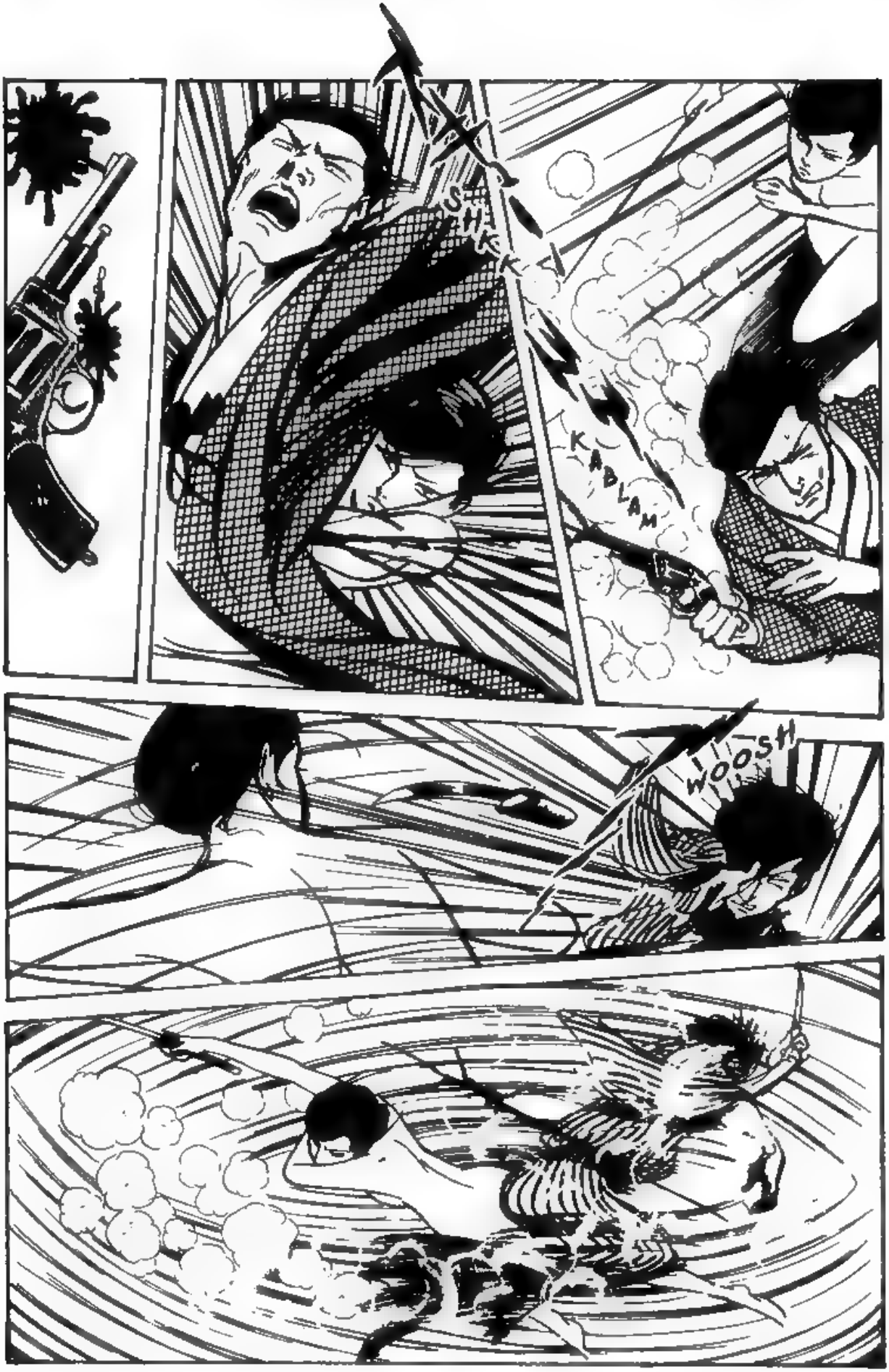
GENYOU, SLAY HER.
SHE CAME PREPARED TO DIE AND WITHOUT ANY WEAPONS ON HER. I DOUBT SHE'S LYING. IT'S TOO BAD WE HAVE TO KILL A PRIME WOMAN LIKE HER. BUT SHE CAME AFTER ME, AND SHE'LL HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.
HMPH! GENYOU THE SLAYER WOULD STRIKE A DEFENSELESS LADY, HUH?
WHAT!
THINK HOW MUCH YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BOAST!

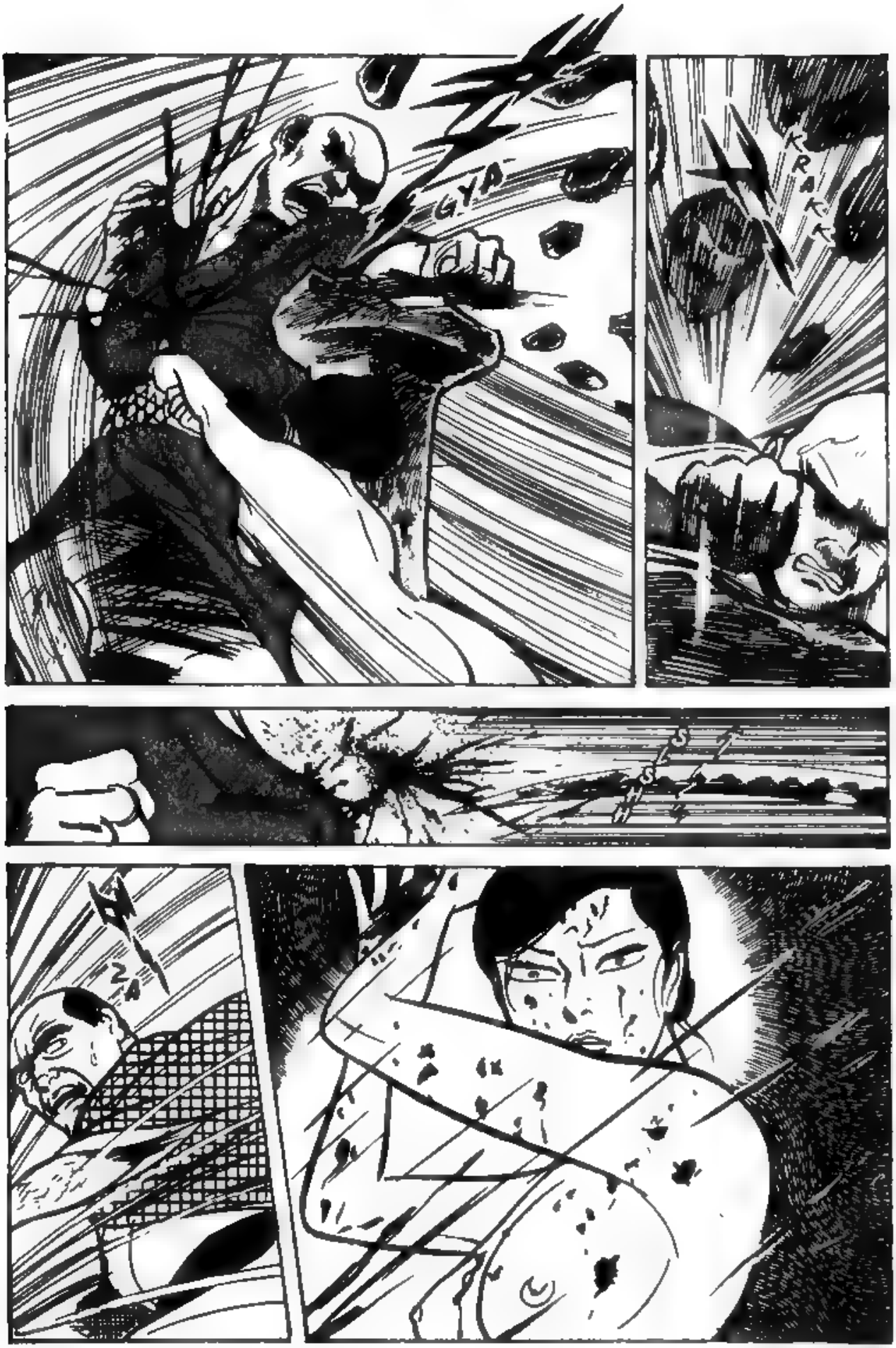


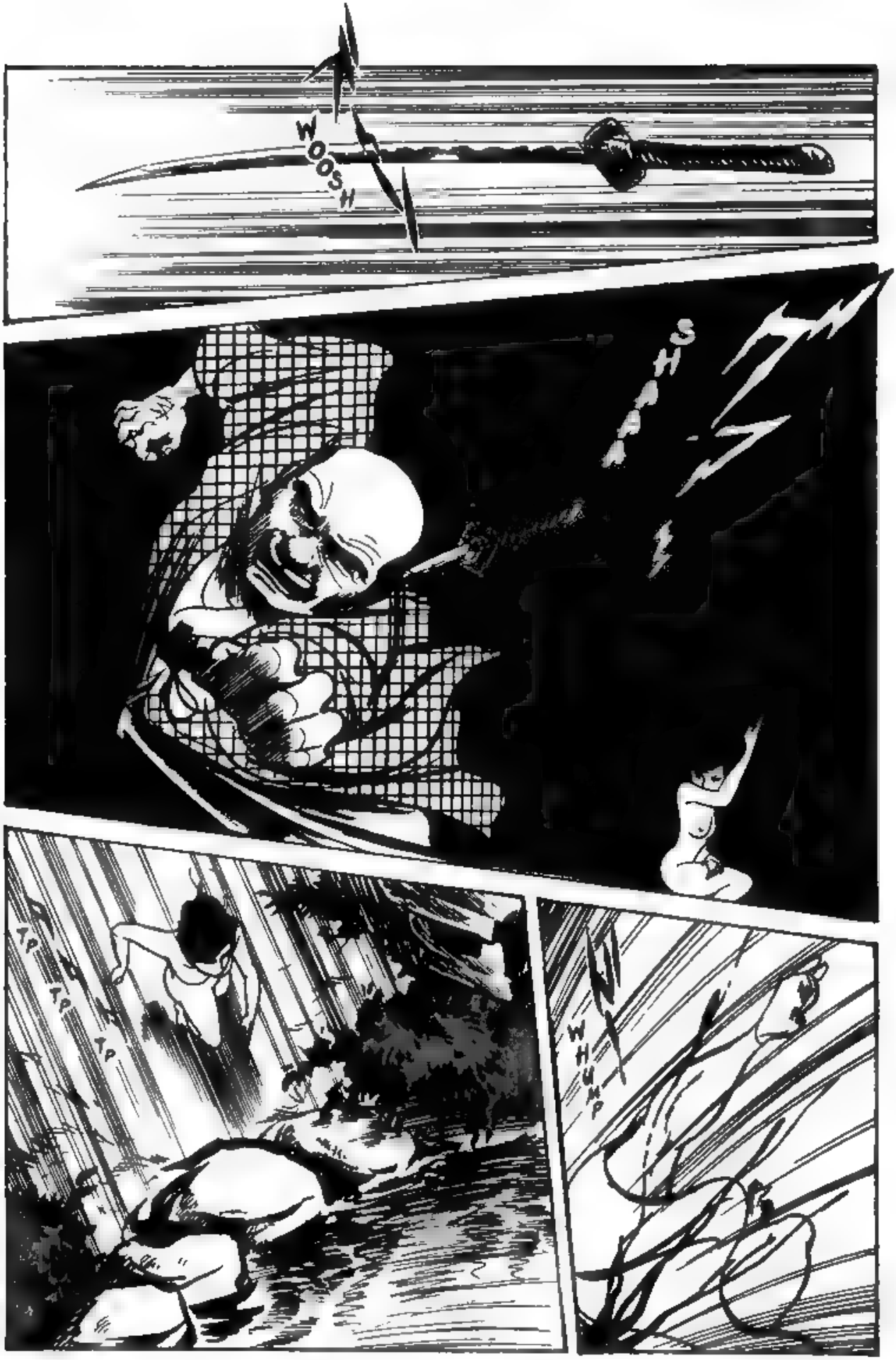

IT'S TURNING INTO AN UNEXPECTED SHOW.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DISPLAY SOME TALENT, BUT YOU'RE JUST A WOMAN IN THE END *SYURA YUKI*, HUH? HOW ABSURD!
READY?
PYUU

TK
MPF!
DWOOF
SHLUCKK

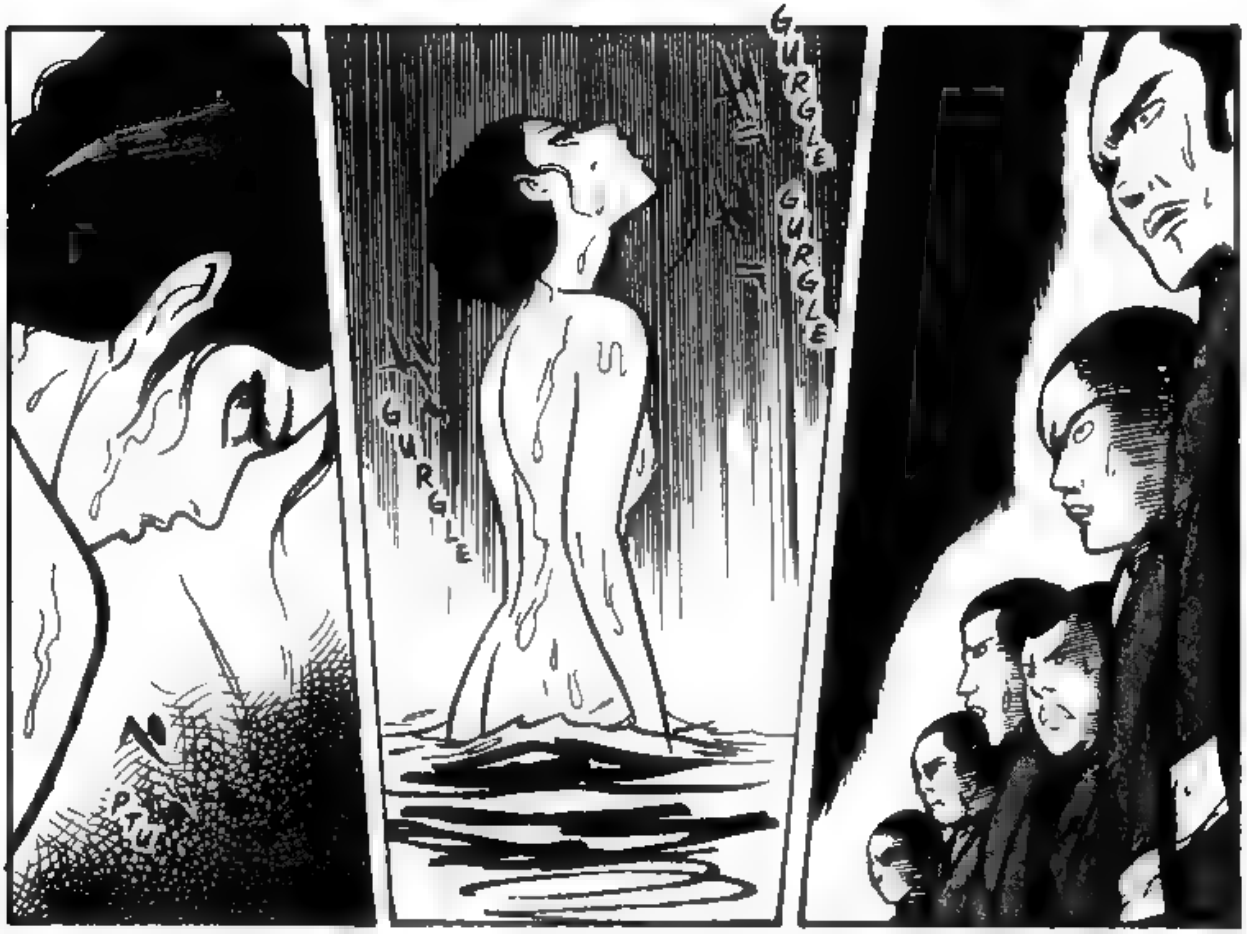

UH.
THOSE ARE SAJIN BOMBS! HOLD YOUR BREATH!
RRRG!
UH...! KOF KOFF!
UGAHH!

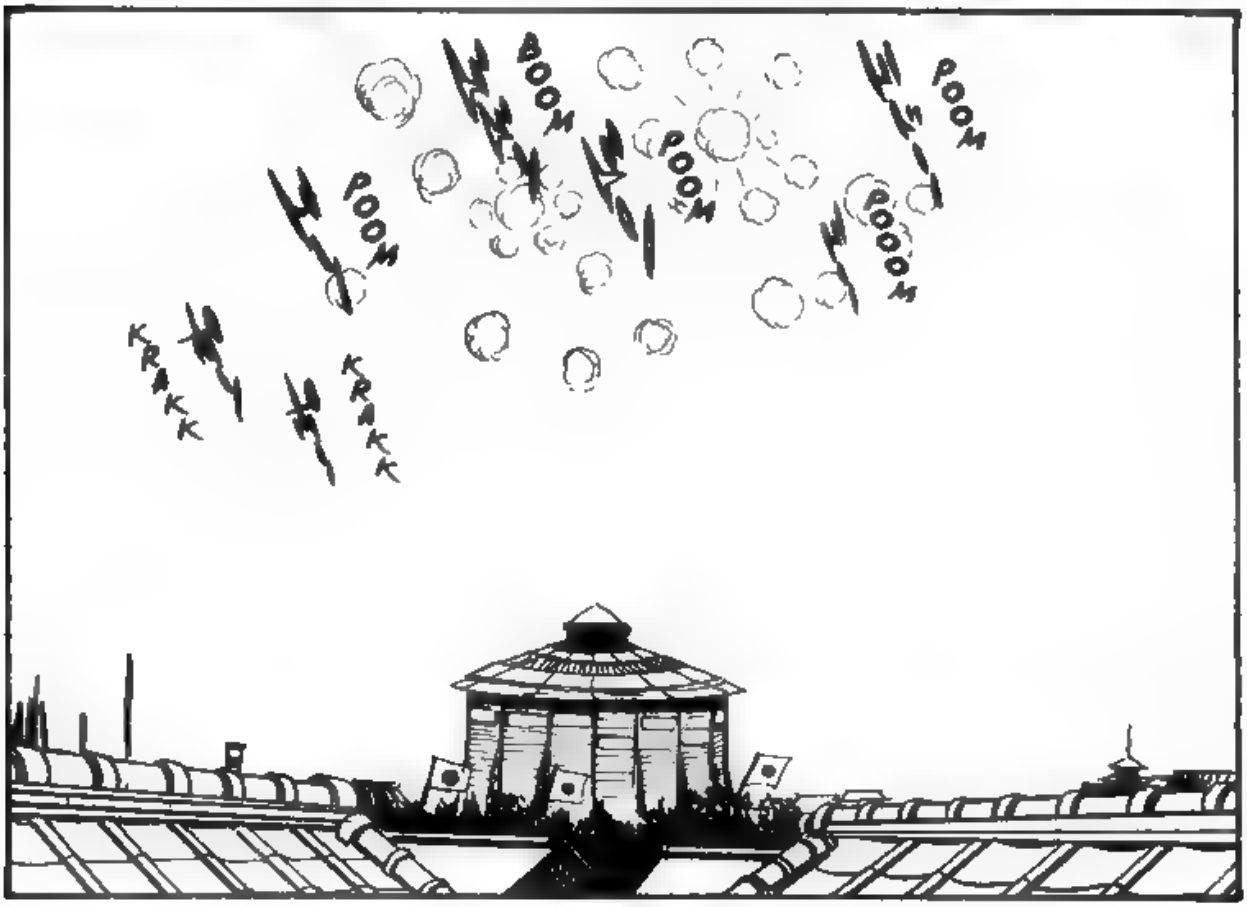

SHKK
KABLAM
WOOSH


GYA
KRAK
SSS
ZA


WOOSH
SHIS
TP
TP
TP
WHUMP

PTU
GLUG GLUG
MM...
PLOOSH
A SAJIN BOMB IS MADE OF IRON POWDER AND STRYCHNINE NITRATE. IT INFLICTS SHARP PAIN AND IS USED AS A WEAPON TO BLIND ENEMIES.


PTU
GURGLE
GURGLE
GURGLE


POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
KRAKK
KRAKK

23RD YEAR OF MEIJI (1890), IN MAY, KIHACHIRO OKURA, TOGETHER WITH EIICHI SHIBUSAWA, BUILT A GREAT HALL OF PANORAMA IN TOKYO ASAKUSA PARK. ON 22ND OF MAY, THE PICTURE OF THE U.S. CIVIL WAR DEPICTED BY SARGENT AND BERTRAND, THE FRENCH ARTIST, WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEW. PEOPLE FLOCKED EVERY DAY TO SEE IT. IT BECAME THE TALK OF TOKYO AND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

■ UNVEILING OF A PRETTY WOMAN AND A STRANGE TALE / THE END ■

LADY SNOW BLOOD

修羅雪姫

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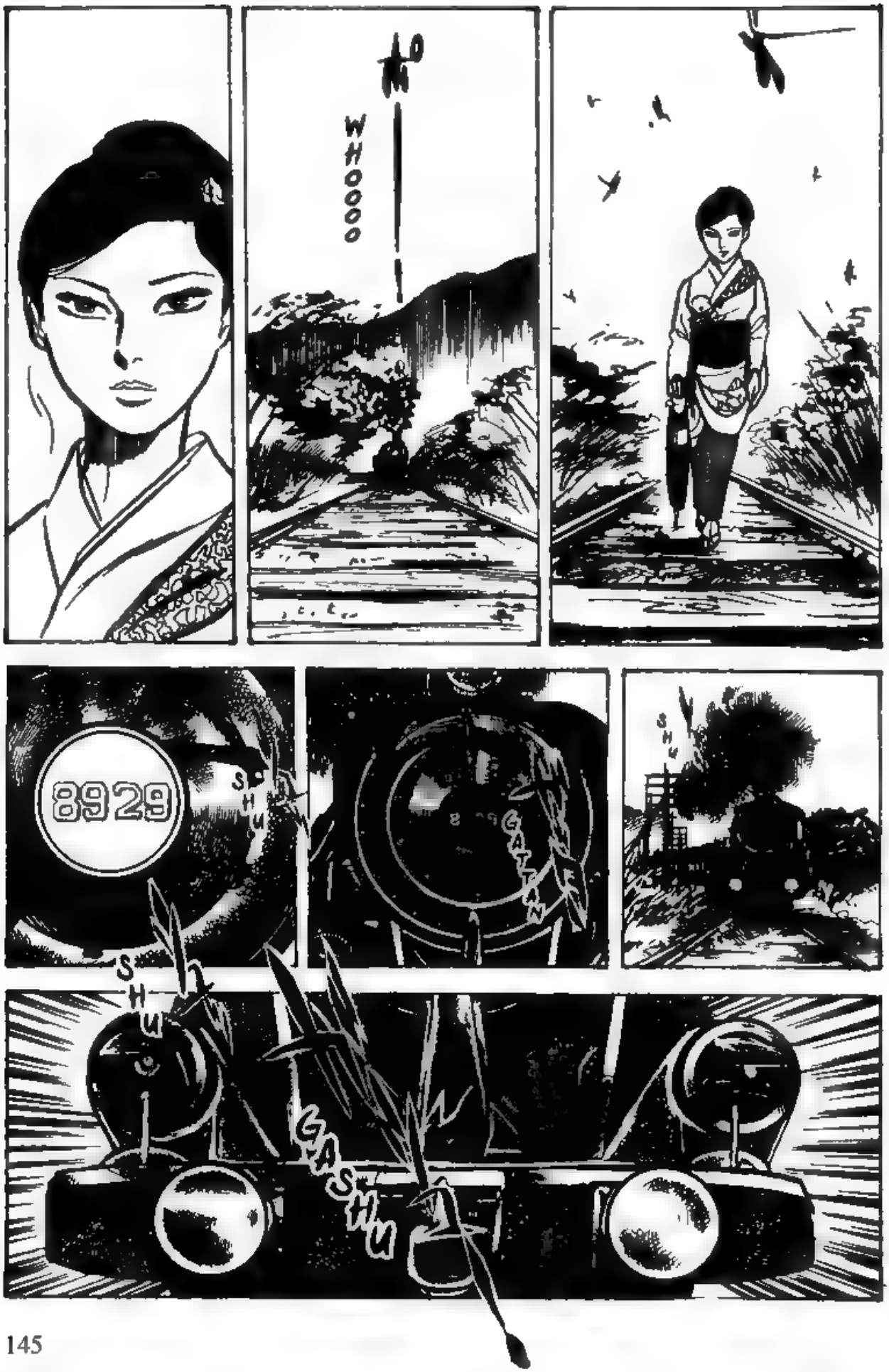
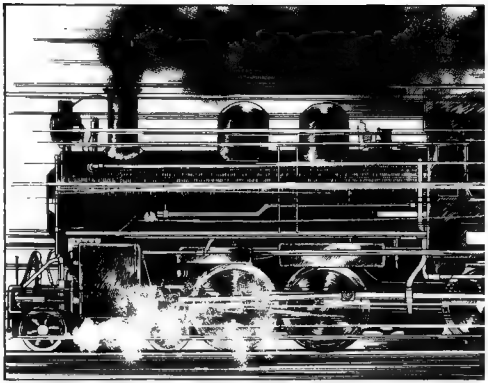
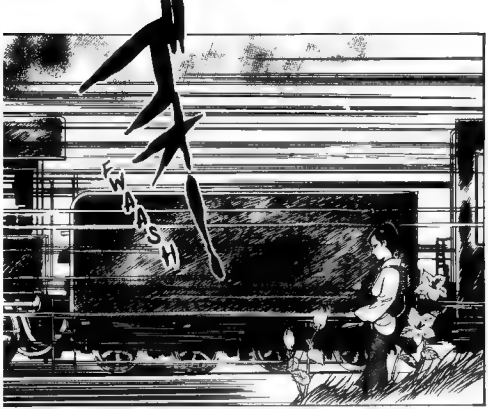
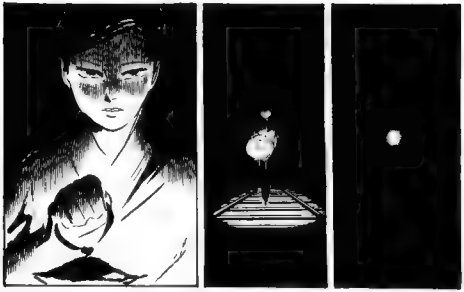
外題之十一 長旅屋詐欺先生 一

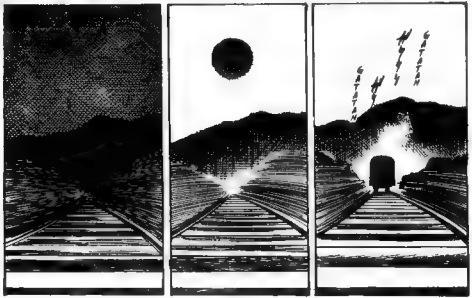
EPISODE 11
MASTER
CROOK,
THE
WANDERER,
PART 1

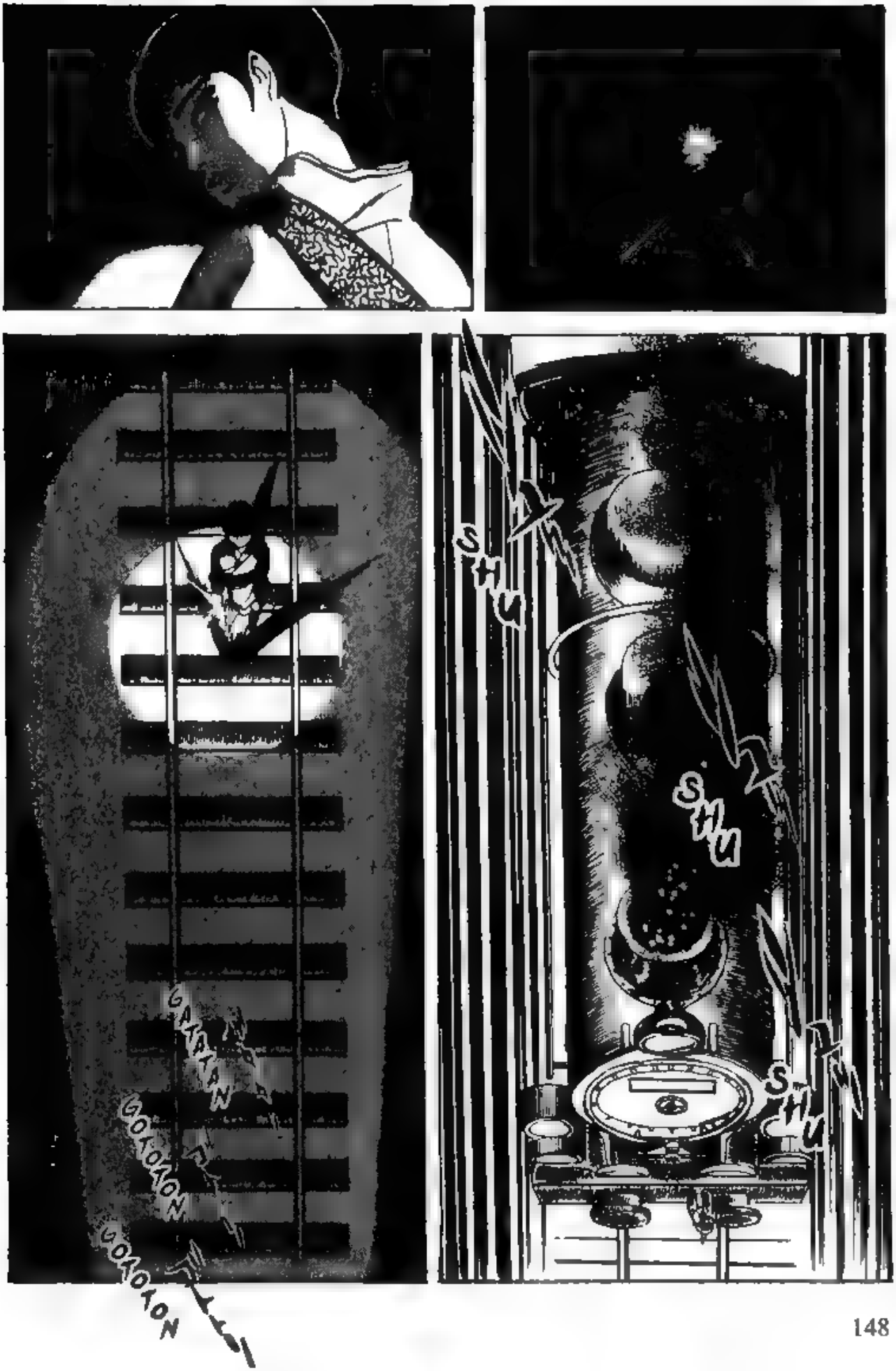

WHOOOO
8929
SHU
GATAN
SHU
SHU
GASHU

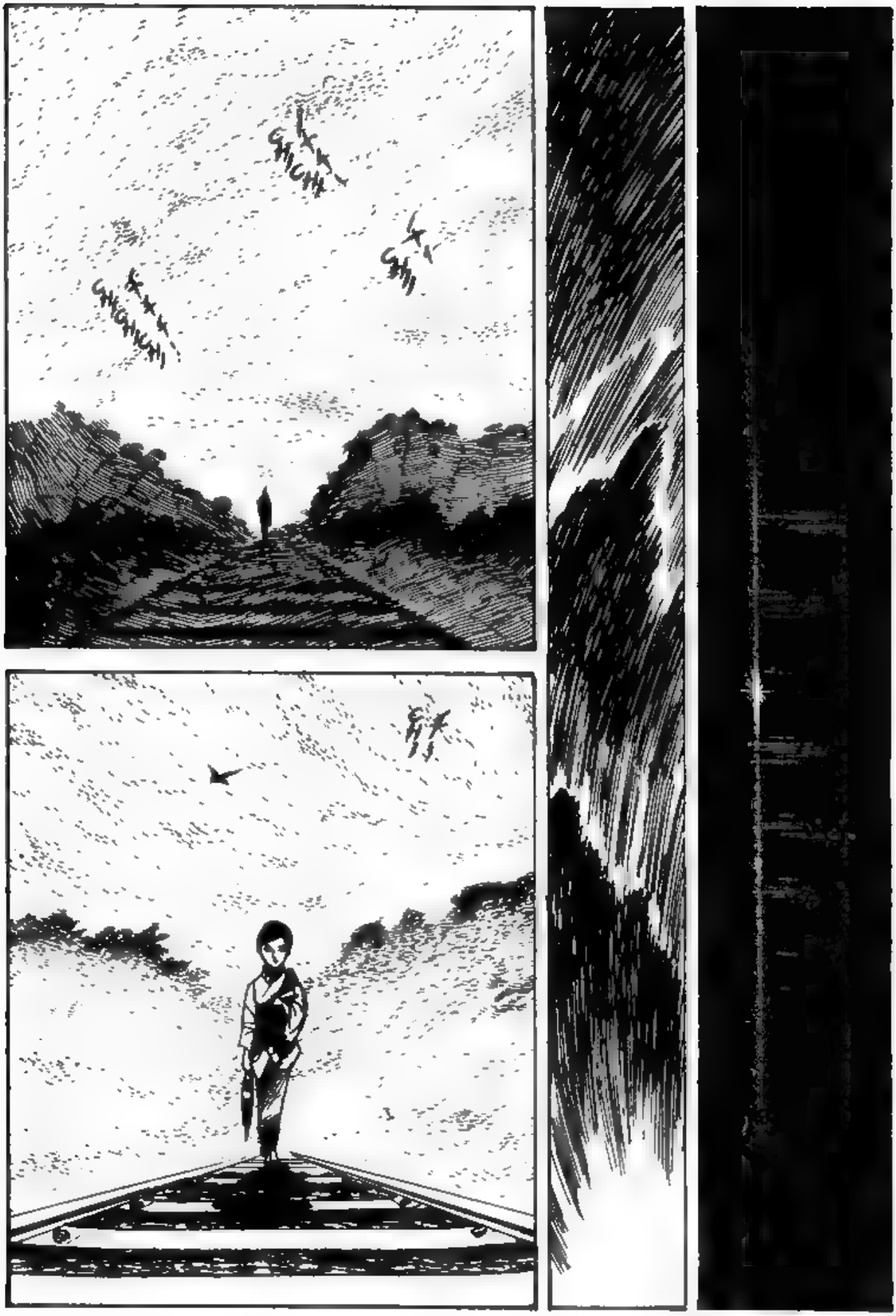


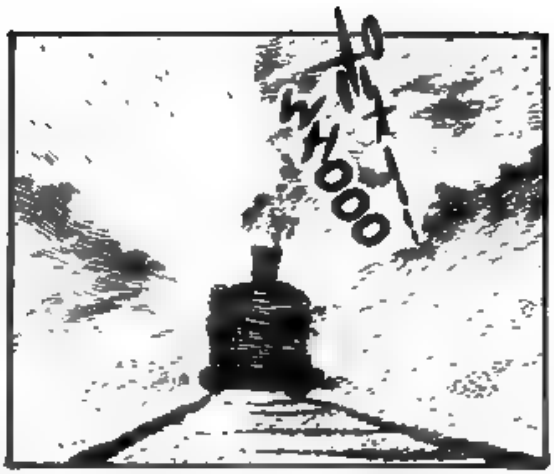

SWASH

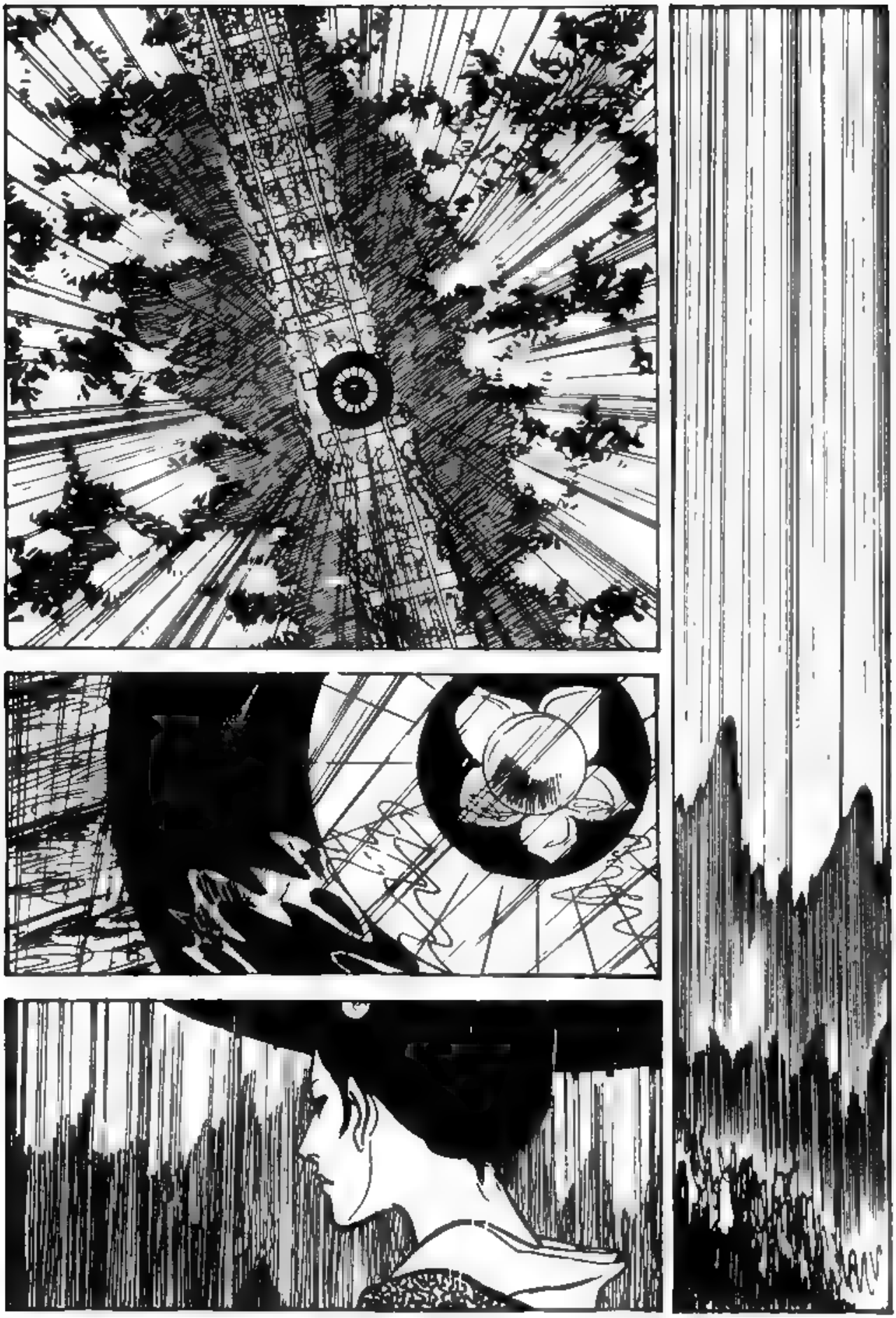


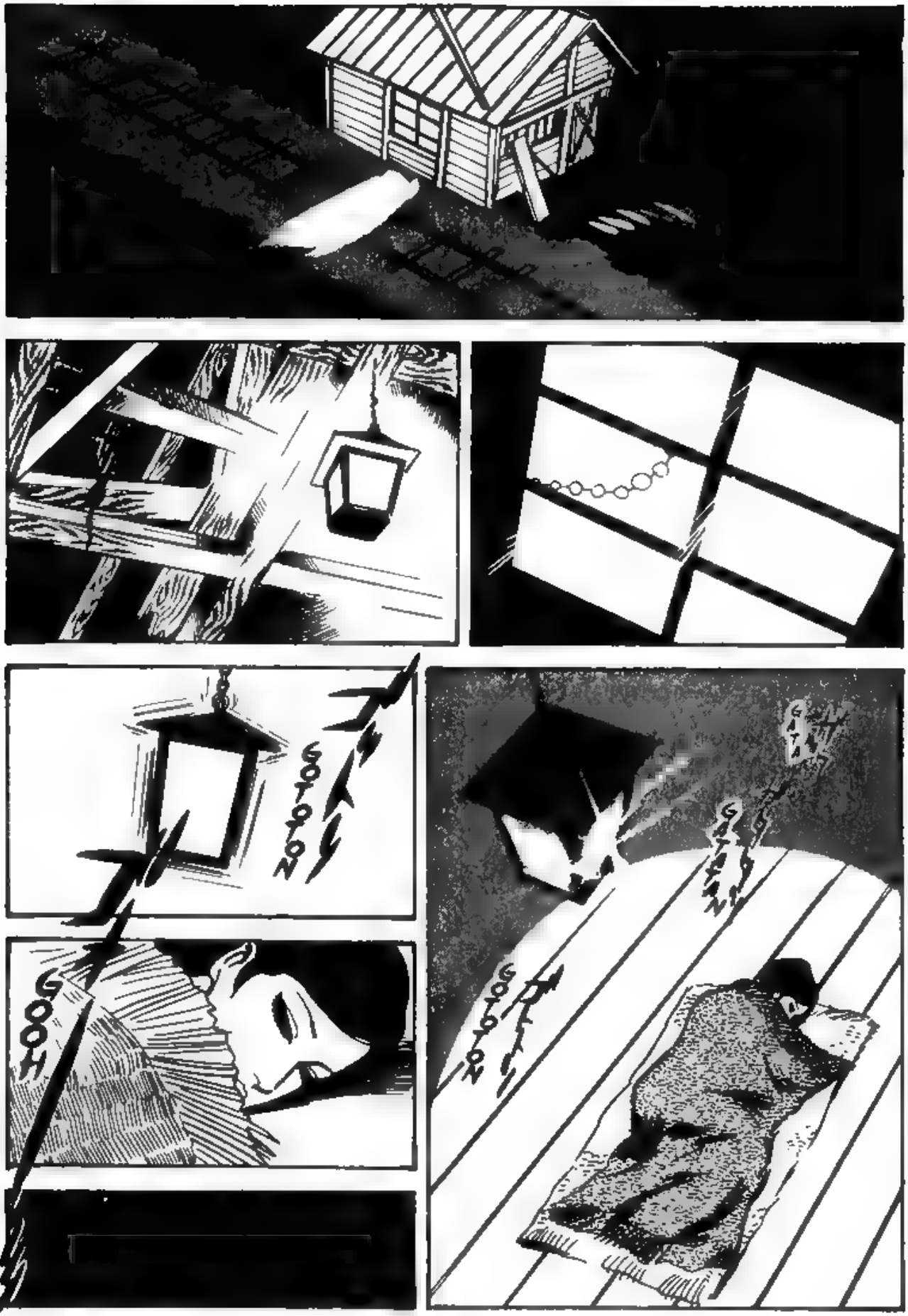



SHU
SHU
SHU
GATATAN
GOGOGON
GOGOGON

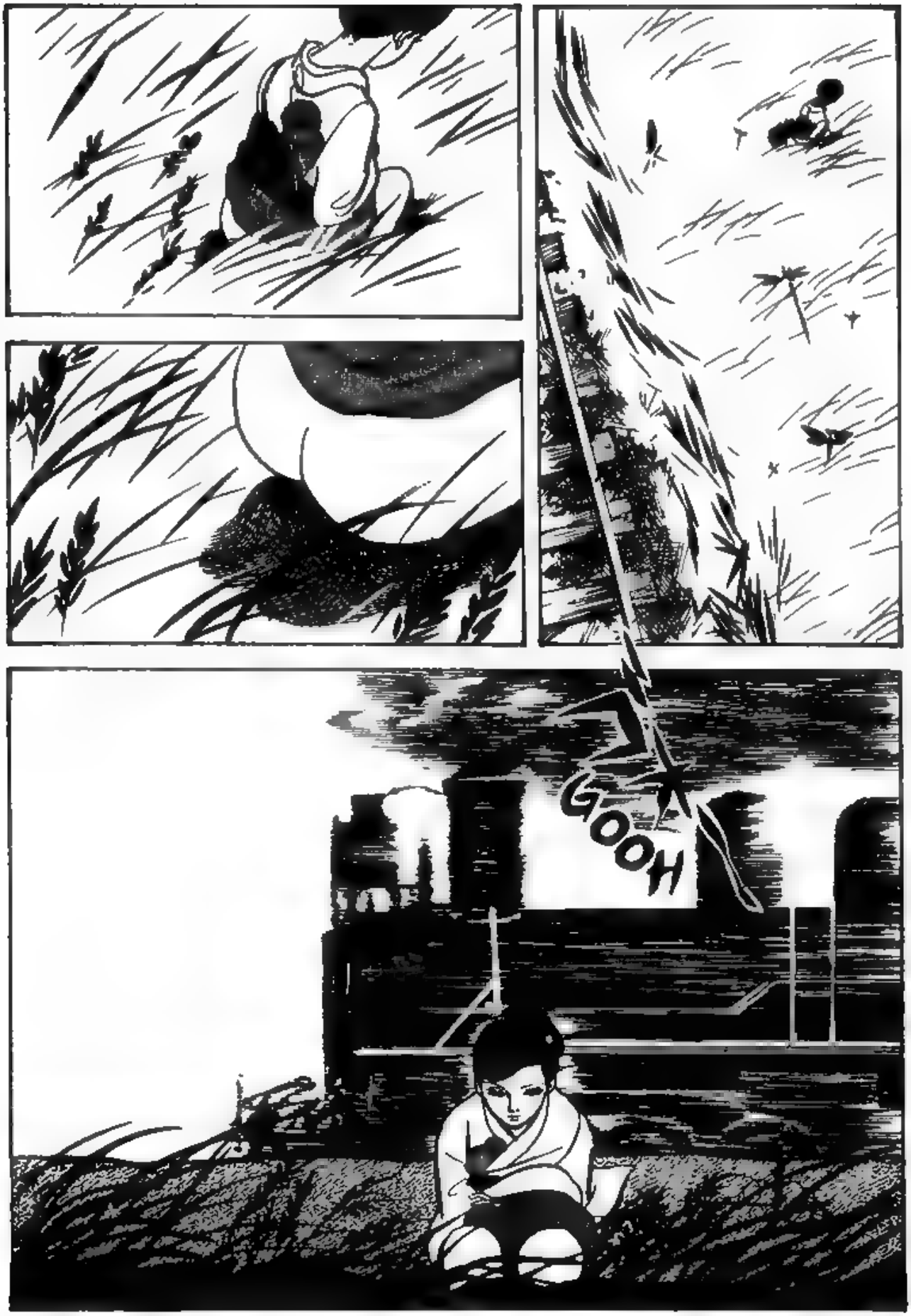

GHIGHI
GHI
GHIGHIGHI!

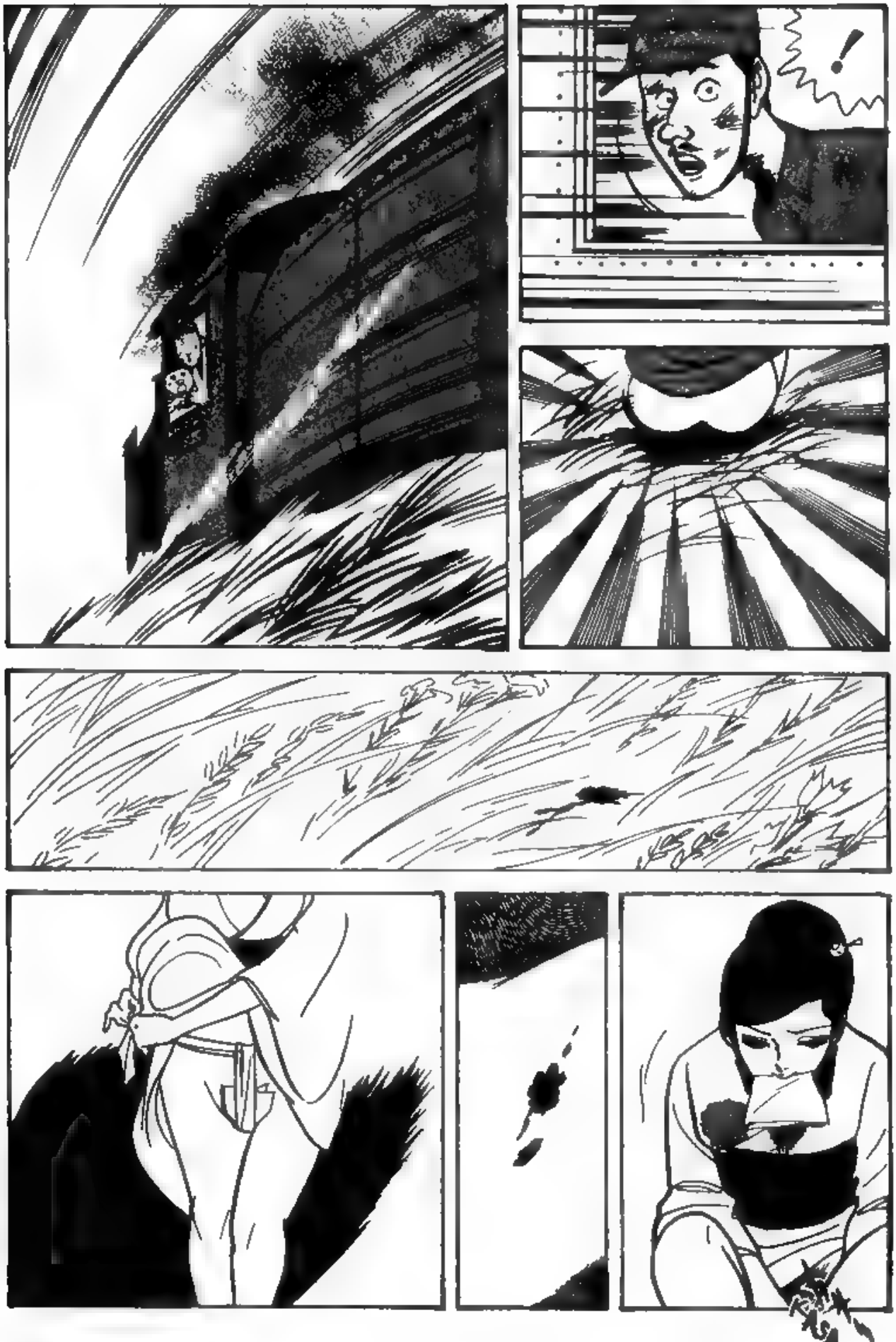

ヒュウウウ

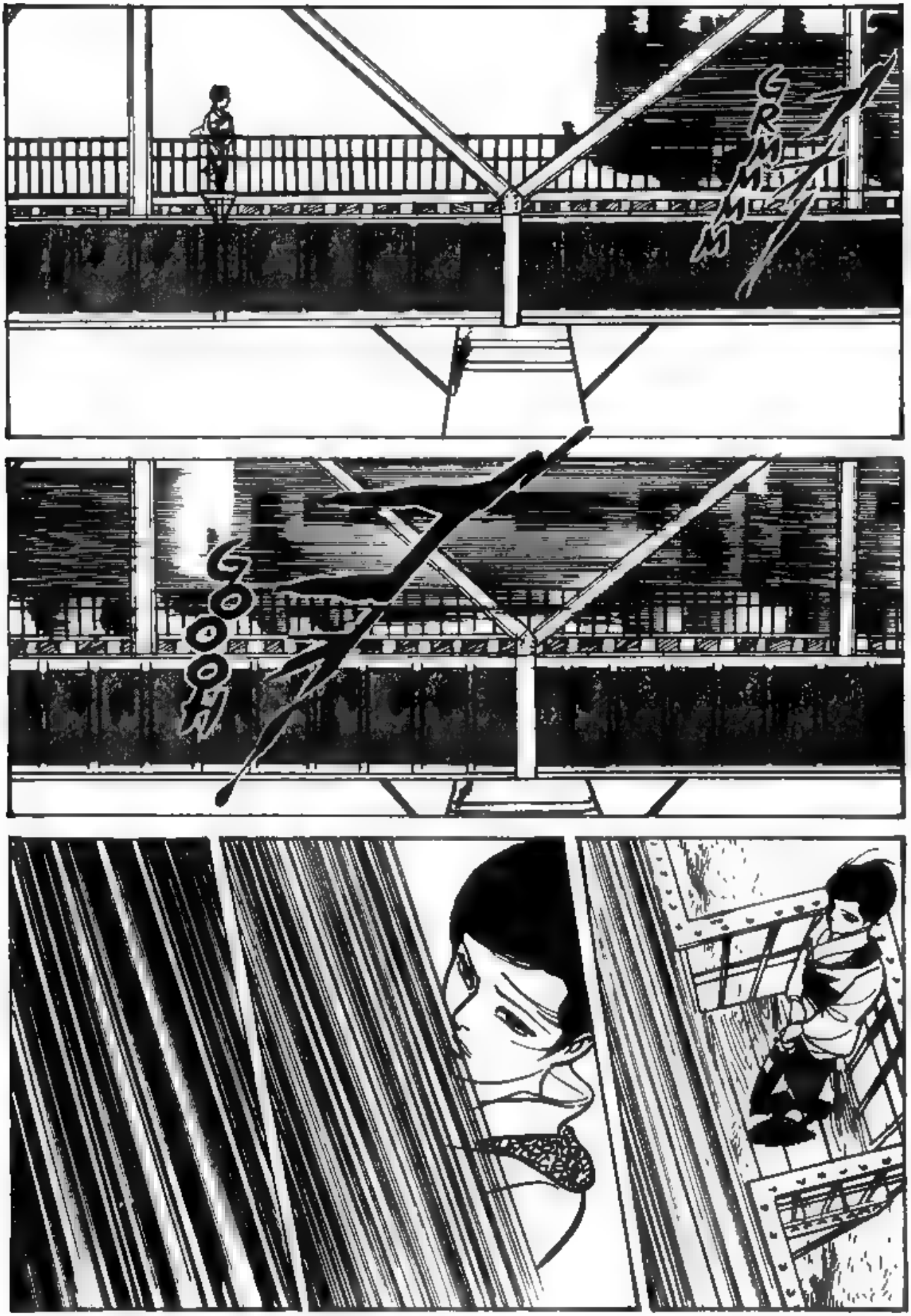



GOTOTON
GOOH
GATAN
GOTOTON
GATAN
GOTOTON

AUTUMN


GOOH



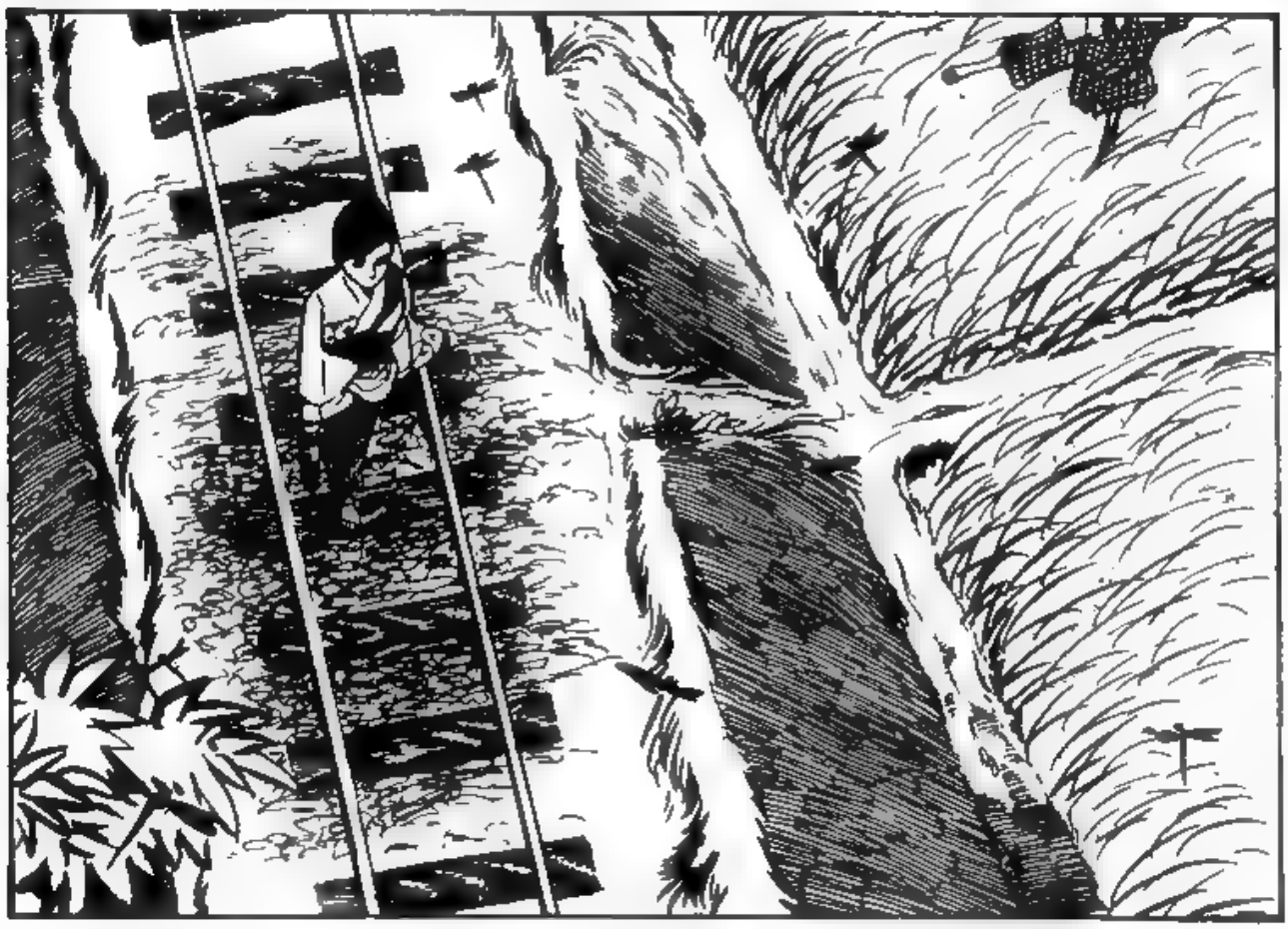

GRMMM
GOOOO

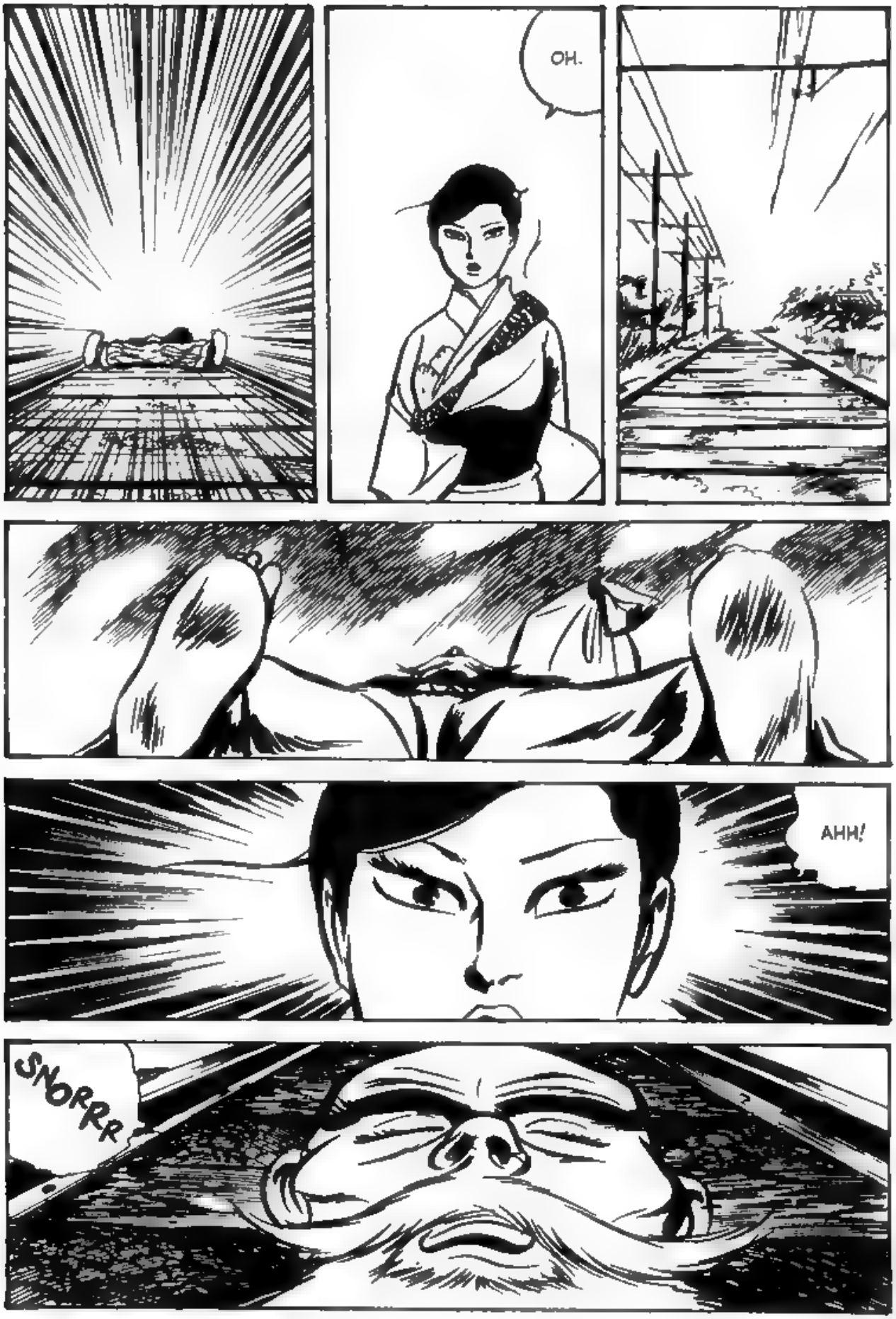
WE STRETCHED OUR EFFORTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS BUT WE *STILL* COULDN'T DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF HANZO TAKEMURA AND GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO, THE LAST TWO ENEMIES OF YOURS.
I MOBILIZED MY MEN ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY, BUT STILL. .
I UNDERSTAND. I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.

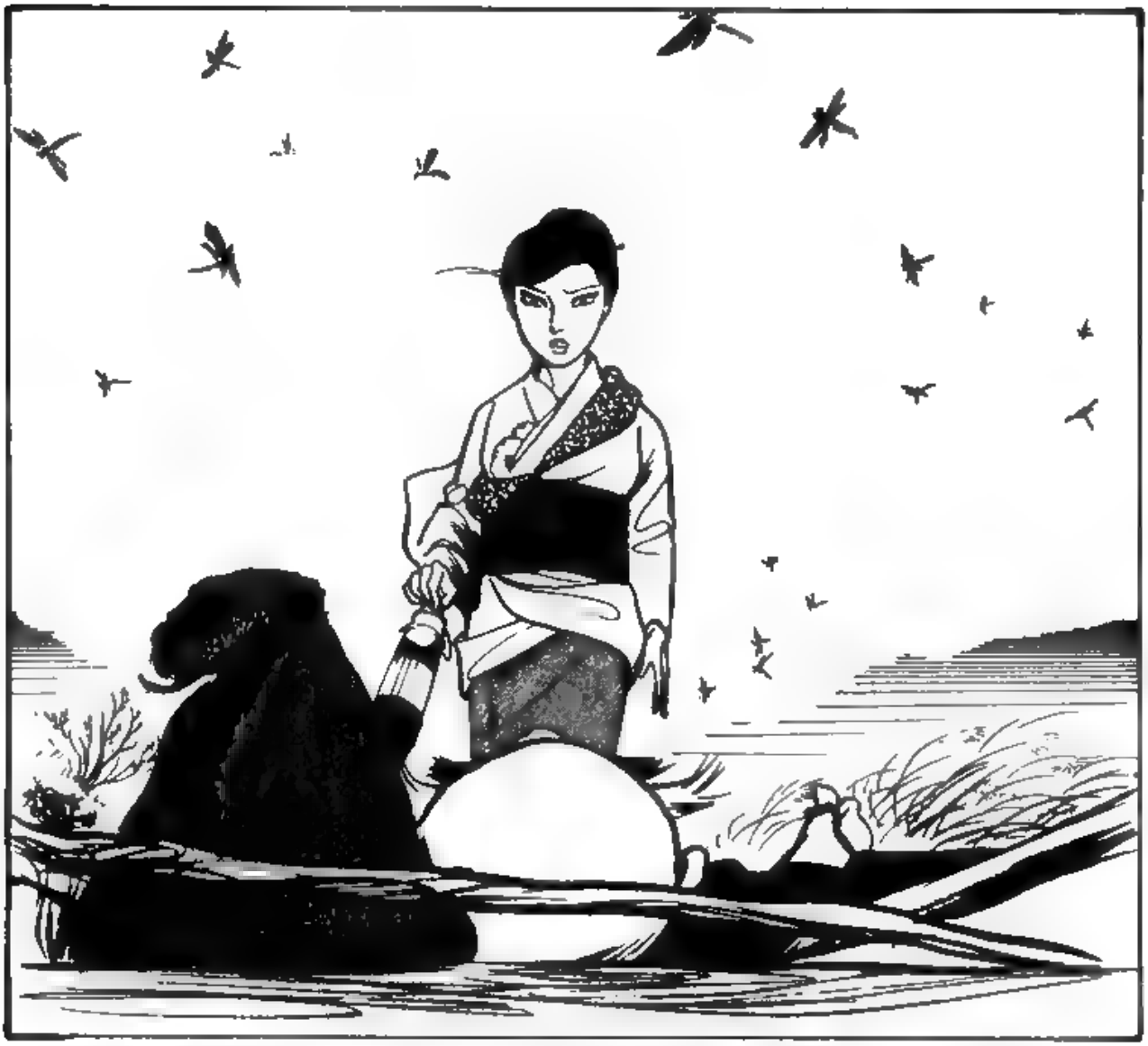
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND I'M THINKING, WHAT IF WE CHANGED THE WAY WE SEARCH.
YOU'VE GOT US THE HOJICHO. WE STILL OWE OUR GRATITUDE TO YOU. I DON'T FEEL RIGHT THE WAY THINGS ARE.
WHAT P!
WHAT IF YOU MADE YOUR WHOLE STORY INTO A NOVEL?
BUT UNLESS YOU GET A FAMOUS WRITER TO WRITE IT, THE BOOK WILL HAVE A SLOW, DIFFICULT START SO I THOUGHT OF THE MASTER WRITER, THE WANDERER, WHO'D BE PERFECT FOR IT.
I BET IT'LL BE PHENOMENAL IT'LL SELL LIKE NO OTHER, AND EVERYONE AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL READ IT.
I MEAN EXPOSING EVERYTHING, FROM HOW IT STARTED, HOW YOU WERE BORN, HOW YOUR MOTHER DIED IN PRISON AND WHAT HAPPENED TO OKONO KITAHAMA--LET EVERYTHING OUT AS A NOVEL.

OH, HIM...
I'M TALKING ABOUT GAIKOTSU MIYA-HARA
THE WAN-DERER?
IT'S NO WONDER HE'S CALLED THE WANDERER. HE TRAVELS WITH NO MONEY OF HIS OWN. HE RUNS OFF AFTER HE TAKES MONEY FROM STRANGERS THROUGH TRICKS AND LIES.
IF HE WRITES IT, IT'LL DO WELL. I BET HIS PUBLISHER WANTS HIM TO WRITE SOMETHING ANYWAY. THE PROBLEM IS, LIKE HIS NICKNAME SUGGESTS, HE LOVES TO ROAM. HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS ECCENTRICITY TOO.
I'M READY TO GRAB AT ALMOST ANY STRAW.
SO YOU'LL TRY IT? HAVE HIM WRITE A BOOK TO COMPEL YOUR ENEMIES TO COME OUT?
WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?

A TRAVELING SWINDLER WHO USES THE RAIL-ROAD?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM, SEARCH WHEREVER TRAINS RUN STAY ON THE RAILROAD I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, BUT THE MASTER WANDERER IS A CON MAN WHO USES THE RAILROAD




OH.
AHH!
SNORRR



PLEASE DESERT ME. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE I'M GONNA DIE.

KWA

!
ゴオオオ!!
...
NOW, YOU SHOULDN'T BE STANDING THERE. JUST GO.
I HAVE NO HOPE AND THERE'S NO POINT IN LIVING.
B-BUT WHY?
THE GRIM REAPER HAS COME. I'M GONNA DIE. NOW, GO! LEAVE! IT'S NOT NICE TO LOOK AT SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO COMMIT SUICIDE LIKE THIS.

SNFF
OH, HOW NICE YOU ASKED! I'M GLAD I COULD MEET SOMEONE WHO'D HEAR MY STORY BEFORE I SET OUT ON THE JOURNEY OF DEATH
. . .
. . .
BUT EVIL OFTEN FINDS A WAY TO INTERFERE WITH GOOD THINGS! LAST NIGHT, AT AN INN, ALL MY MONEY WAS STOLEN! IT'S HOPELESS.
I STARTED MY JOURNEY WITH EVERY PENNY I SAVED, EXCITED AND HAPPY, THINKING THAT I COULD SPEND MY SHORT REMAINING LIFE TRAVELING ALL OVER JAPAN, TOURING EVERYWHERE!

WHO'D HELP A MAN LIKE ME? THE COLD WORLD HAS GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT A NASTY BLOW I HAVE NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO DIE. THE RAILROAD HAS BECOME MY PILLOW. I'M ON MY WAY STRAIGHT TO HELL.
I WISH I COULD MAKE IT TO MY RELATIVES IN SHINAGAWA, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD THE FARE. I'M NOT FIT ENOUGH TO GET THERE ON FOOT EITHER
AHUH AHUH AHUH
6121
6121
I'LL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THAT.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO DIE IF YOU CAN GET THE FARE THEN?

GRUMM
ION
GUARD
GUARD

THE MASTER WRITER, THE WANDERER, IS A SNEAKY BASTARD WITH A TWISTED MIND. HIS NOVELS ARE INTERESTING TO READ AND QUITE POPULAR, BUT HE NEVER WRITES ANYTHING UNLESS HE FEELS LIKE IT.
HE USES THE MONEY HE SWINDLES FOR HIS WANDERING, AND HE FINDS GREAT SATISFACTION IN DOING THAT. I MEAN, HE'S UNMANAGEABLE.
LISTEN, HE WON'T WRITE ANYTHING FOR YOU IF YOU JUST ASK WITH A HALF-BAKED APPROACH. YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT RIGHT. YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE HIM WANT TO WRITE IT, RATHER THAN BEG HIM.
CRAAAM
CRAAAM

AS THEY SAY, THERE'S A GOD WHO DESERTS YOU AND ANOTHER WHO SAVES YOU. I MEAN, A GODDESS. ARE YOU BENZAITEN OR KANZEON? THANK YOU, THANK YOU! YOU SAID YOU'LL GIVE ME THE FARE AS CHARITY, RIGHT?
NAMU... WHAT?!
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY WITH ME RIGHT NOW.
THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE MEETING THE BUDDHA IN HELL. NAMU...
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH TEASING AN OLD MAN FACING DEATH!

I SAID I WOULD GIVE IT TO YOU, BUT I DIDN'T SAY WHEN.
BUT I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D GIVE ME THE FARE WAS THAT A LIE?
I REALLY HAVE NO MONEY WITH ME. IF I HAD ANY, I WOULDN'T BE TRAVELING ON FOOT ALONG THE RAILROAD MYSELF.
MMMM! WHAT A SOPHISTRY! UNFORGIV-ABLE!
YES.
YOU MEAN, ON FOOT?
I SEE... SO, YOU'RE ALSO A TRAVELER THEN.
BUT I *WILL* MAKE MONEY. PLEASE COME WITH ME.
HMMM.
I TRAVELED FROM TOKYO.

YOU SURE YOU CAN DO IT FAST?
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE AN OLD MAN IN TROUBLE. I'LL MAKE SOME RIGHT AWAY. REST ASSURED.
BUT HOW?
I PROMISED. RIGHT AWAY. SO PLEASE COME WITH ME.
ALL RIGHT.
YES.
HMMM.
UP!
OKAY.

LET'S GO THEN, SHALL WE?

AKE
FOOD
YUP. OLD MEN HAVE LOW TEMPERATURES. I WOULD LOVE SOME *SAKE* TO WARM MY BODY TO THE CORE.
ARE YOU GETTING HUNGRY?
AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, "WOMEN MAY WITHER BUT NOT *SAKE*." I'M FOND OF IT.
YOU MUST ENJOY DRINKING QUITE A BIT.

WHAT?
DON'T WORRY, I ALREADY MADE MONEY.
WELCOME!
H-HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU'RE PENNILESS!
YES, MA'AM
BRING SAKE AND A LOT OF DISHES RECOMMENDED BY THE CHEF PLEASE-- AND NO HOLDING BACK.

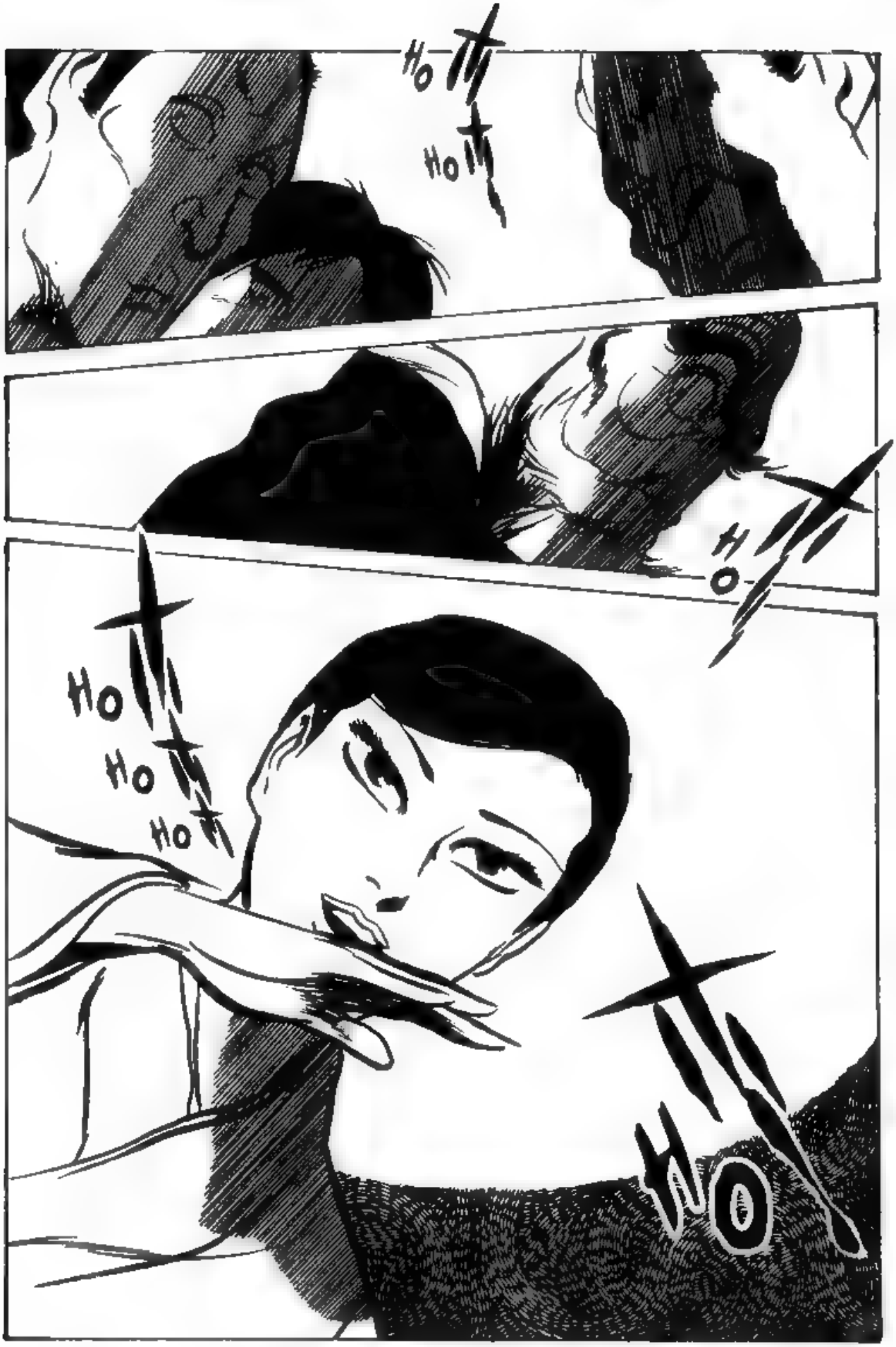
H-HEY, YOU SURE YOU CAN AFFORD THAT?
SEE? I'VE GOT PLENTY.
HUH?
IS ANY-THING THE MATTER?
WHEN--? THAT'S MINE--!
IT'S-IT'S GONE!
ER.. ER...

THERE'S HARDLY ANY POINT IN DRINKING IF I'M PAYING FOR IT ..
HERE! ENJOY YOURSELF.
GULP
ER-- NO, NOTHING.
WHAT?
IT ..IT'S MINE-- I MEAN, ER...
I FOUND IT JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO
BUT HOW DID YOU GET THAT MONEY?
AGGH. I'M ANNOYED.
THIS IS DELICIOUS.

HO
HO
HO
HO
HO
BUT WE'VE GOTTA THANK THE RAILROAD. WITHOUT IT, WE WOULDN'T BE EATING A GOOD MEAL AND HAVING A HOT DRINK.
TRUE ENOUGH HEY, MAN, BRING OUT SOME SAKE.
YES, RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
ARHHH, I'M EXHAUSTED UNLOADING LUGGAGE FROM THE TRAIN IS ROUGH ON THE BODY.

HUH? ISN'T HE THE GUY WE SAW EARLIER WHO WAS ON HIS LAST LEG?
!
YOU WERE LYING ON THE TRACK SAYING YOU'D KILL YOURSELF BECAUSE WITH ALL YOUR MONEY STOLEN YOU COULDN'T BUY FOOD OR AFFORD THE FARE FOR A RETURN TRIP HOME.
HUH?!
BASTARD! YOU'RE DRINKING SAKE WITH A WOMAN LIKE A RICH MAN!
YOU LOOKED SO PITIFUL, WE GAVE YOU ENOUGH CASH FOR LUNCH AND FARE.

TH-THIS ISN'T... I MEAN...
YOU DUPED US, DIDN'T YOU?
SHUT UP! I'M GONNA RIP OFF YOUR ARMS FOR WHAT YOU DID!
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO


Ho
Ho
Ho
Ho
Ho
Ho
Ho

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT IT?
W-WHAT THE HELL?
WHAT?!
IT'S JUST SUCH A JOKE TO SEE GROWN MEN CROWDING AROUND AND PICKING ON AN OLD MAN.
SHUT UP! THIS ISN'T SOMETHING A WOMAN SHOULD GET INVOLVED WITH. STAY OUT OF IT.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ACTING LIKE CHILDREN?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA CLEAR HIM?
WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, BUT WHY DON'T I COVER HIS DEBT TO YOU?
YES. PLEASE TELL ME YOUR COMPLAINT
OH WOW OH WOW.
ALL RIGHT. SINCE YOU INSIST.
WOW OH WOW.
THIS GUY IS A FILTHY CROOK.

WE FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM THAT WE GAVE WHAT LITTLE CASH WE HAD, SO HE COULD GET SOME FOOD AND A FARE HOME.
HE DUPED US. HE HAD HIMSELF SPREAD OUT ON THE TRACK, SAYING HIS LIFE SAVINGS WERE STOLEN AND HE WAS COMMIT-TING SUICIDE.
BUT THIS CRAP OF A GEEZER HAS--
IT WAS A LOT OF MONEY FOR DAY LABORERS LIKE US.

YOU LIAR!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. I MEAN, I REALLY AM GOING TO SEE MY RELATIVES TOMORROW WITH THE MONEY YOU GAVE ME. I MEAN, THIS YOUNG LADY IS TREATING ME TO SAKE HERE.
YOU SAID YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE AROUND HERE. NOW, TELL US, HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
AHHH, H-HELP!
ER... ER...

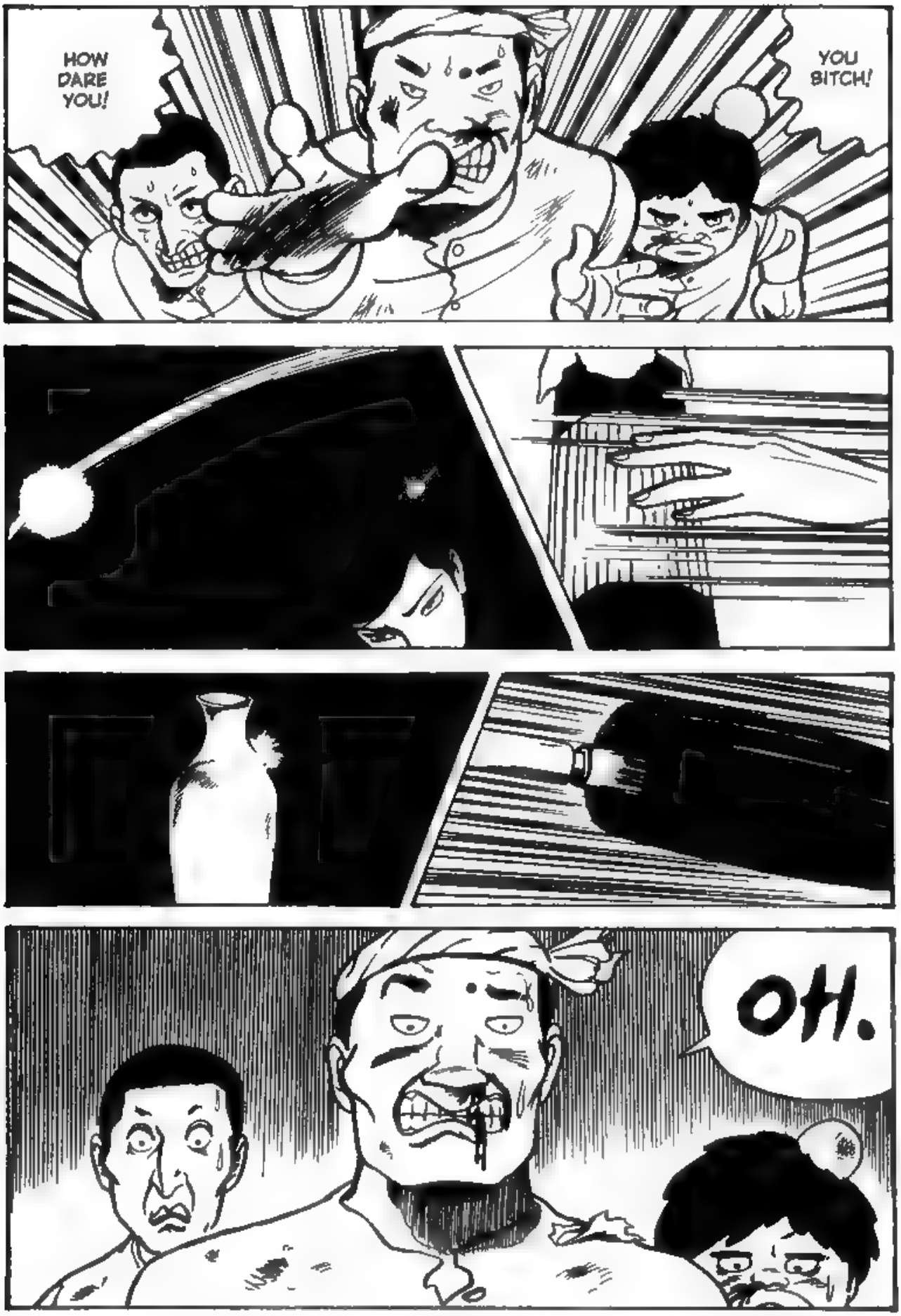
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT? LIKE I SAID, I'LL PAY FOR IT.
F-FIVE YEN!
HOW MUCH DID YOU GIVE HIM FOR FARE AND LUNCH?
YOU MORON! YOU CAN'T BUY PEOPLE'S HEARTS WITH MONEY! YOU TRAMPLED ON OUR KINDNESS. ONE HUNDRED YEN WOULDN'T EVEN BE ENOUGH. OR, WOULD YOU RATHER GO TO JAIL?
THAT'S CRAZY! IT WAS ONLY ONE YEN AND FIFTY SEN!

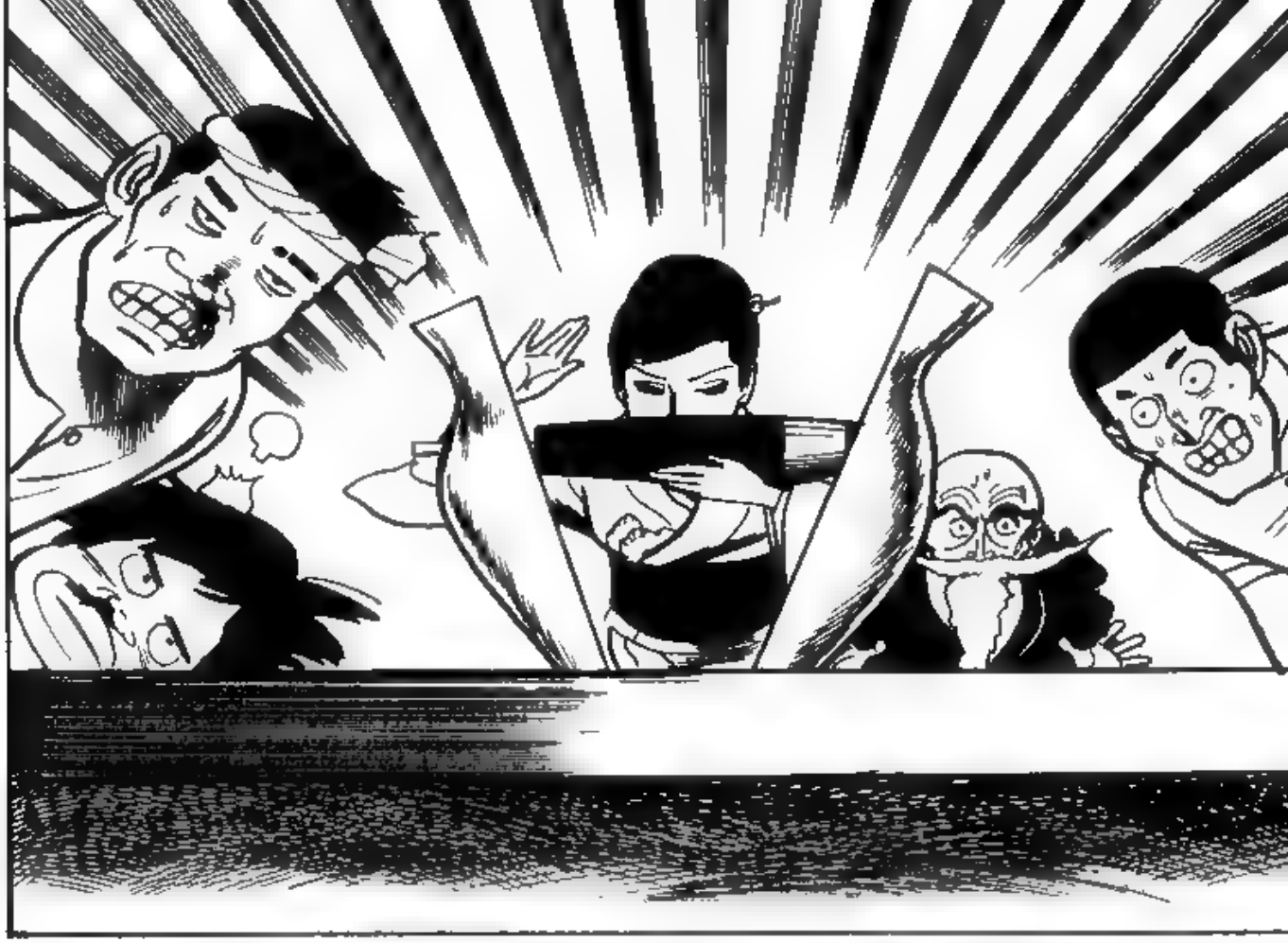
HOW ABOUT SIX YEN ...?
OH WOW OH, WOW.
NO, NOT HIM. YOU DO IT, SINCE YOU SAID YOU'D COVER FOR HIM.
MONEY ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH THE DUDE SHOULD APOL-OGIZE ON HIS KNEES.

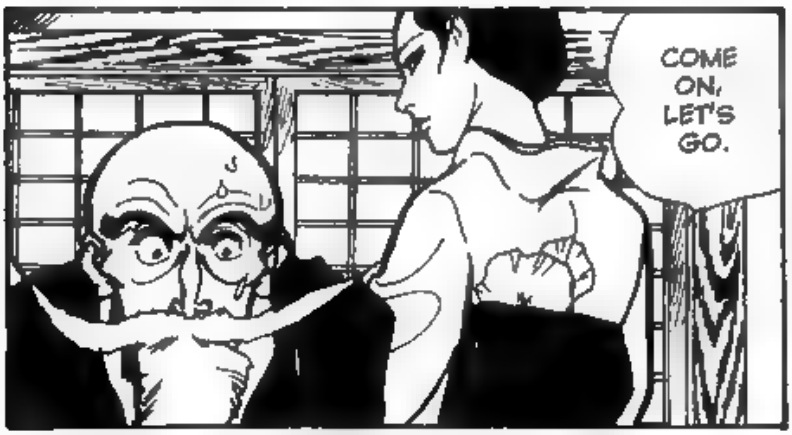
AND ONE MORE THING. HEE HEE YOU SERVE US DRINKS.
I APOLOGIZE FOR EVERY-THING.
IF YOU CAN BE SO SINCERE TO THIS GUY, YOU COULD SHOW US A GREATER GRATITUDE. HEE HEE HEE.
WHAT?!
Y-YOU! JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ACTING HUMBLE, YOU'RE BLOAT-ING UP. IT'S ENOUGH!
PLEASE CALM DOWN. THE OLD MAN IS SHORT TEMPERED.

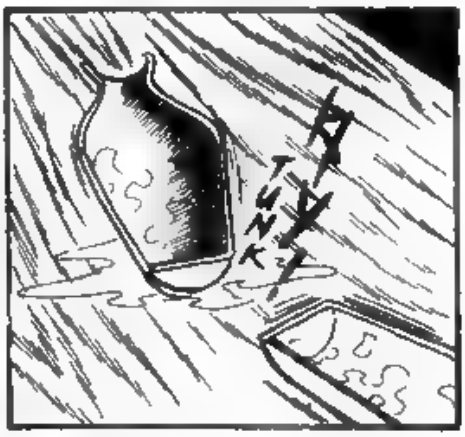
YOU'RE A DARN GOOD LOOKING WOMAN.
HEH HEH HEH, YEAH.
HEE HEE.
HEH HEH. NICE AND MOIST, HUH? HEE HEE HEE.
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT? HEE HEE HEE. YOU CAN LET ME TOUCH JUST A LITTLE.
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, YOUNG MAN.

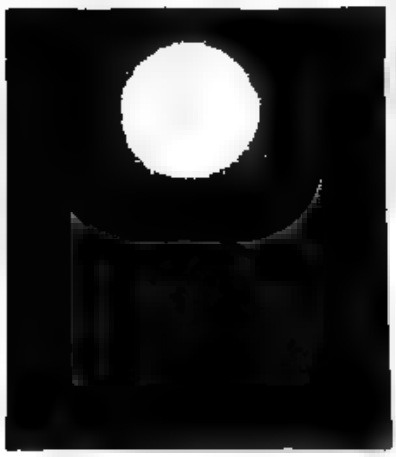
A BIT MORE OF YOUR SOFT PARTS.
I WILL TAKE NO MORE OF THIS.
I TOLD YOU TO STOP! DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
NOW, IT'S HAIRY DOWN HERE. HMM. HEH HEH.
WHAM

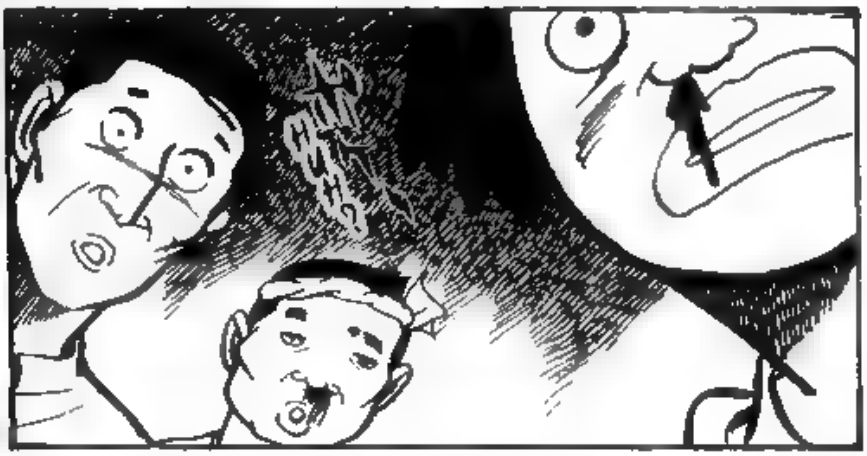

HOW DARE YOU!
YOU BITCH!
OH.




COME ON, LET'S GO.


KA-CHUNK




GULP

AND-AND, THE THING THAT GLEAMED! SUCH A FEAT, SLICING THE *SAKE* BOTTLE IN HALF. WHAT WAS THAT? I BET IT WAS *IAINUKI*, BUT HOW CAN A WOMAN DO THAT?
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU? T-TELL ME!
W-WILL YOU DO THAT AGAIN? PLEASE?
IS THAT UMBRELLA A SWORD IN DISGUISE?
GLARE
P-PLEASE?
I STILL CAN'T BE-LIEVE MY EYES.

SY-SYURA YUKI?
MY NAME IS SYURA YUKI.
I AM A CHILD OF SYURA BORN IN PRISON ON A SNOWY DAY
SHUDDER
SHE SUCCESSFULLY KILLED ONE, BUT SHE WAS LOCKED UP FOR LIFE WHILE THE REST OF THEM WERE LEFT AT LARGE.
MY MOTHER HAD FOUR SWORN ENEMIES.

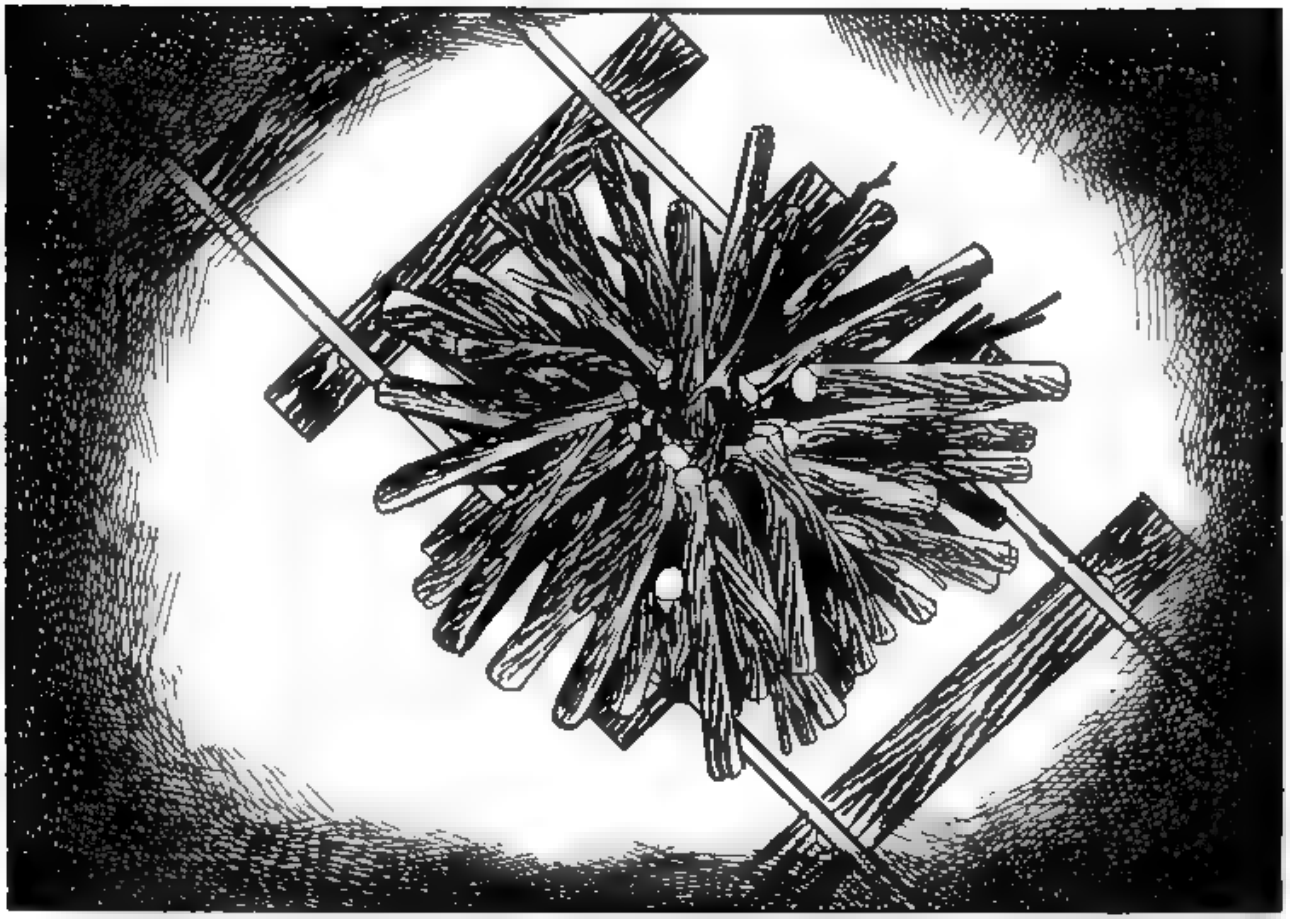
ONCE MY MOTHER BECAME A BIRD THAT COULD NEVER LEAVE HER CAGE, SHE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA TO BEAR ME WITHIN THOSE BARS. SHE SEDUCED MONKS AND PRISON GUARDS...
...AND GOT HERSELF PREGNANT WITH ME AT LAST.
HMM.
HMMM, WHAT HAIR-RAISING VINDICTIVE-NESS FOR A WOMAN!
SHE ENTRUSTED HER GRUDGE TO ME, A CHILD OF *SYURA* WHO'D LEAVE THE CAGE FOR HER
I AM A VEHICLE OF RETRIBUTION WHO ROAMS IN SEARCH OF MY MOTHER'S SWORN ENEMIES.

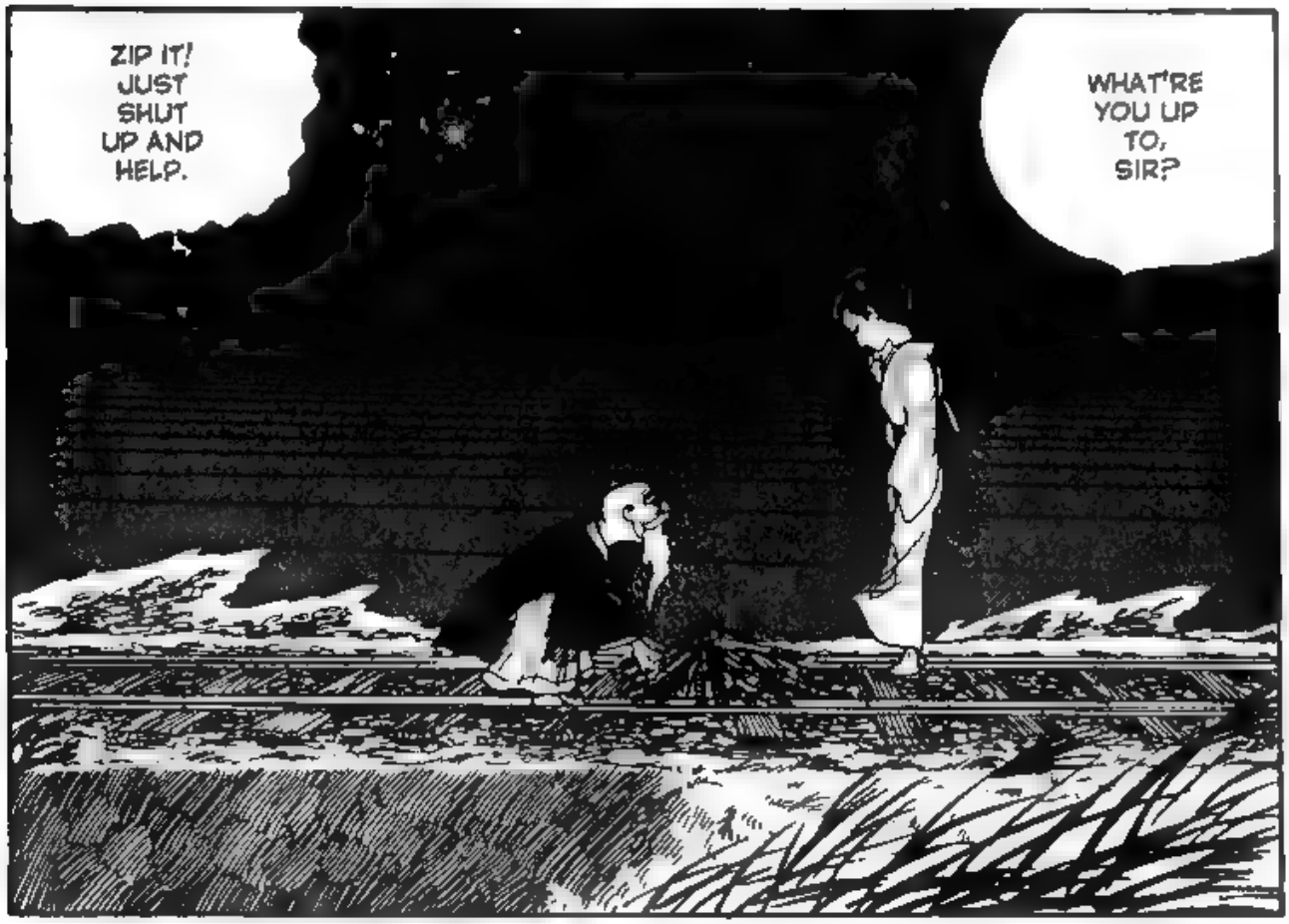
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, THE MASTER WRITER, THE WANDERER, HOPING BEYOND HOPE THAT YOU'D WRITE A NOVEL BASED ON MY STORY OF SYURA.
BUT I DO NOT KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF GISHIRO TSUKAMOTO AND HANZO TAKEMURA. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FIND THEM
TH-TH-THEN... FROM THE GET-GO--

PLEASE, I BEG YOU. IF YOU WRITE IT, IT WILL EARN NATIONWIDE FAME AND HER ENEMIES WILL READ IT TOO.
SHINK
PLEASE...
MMMM.

外題之十一 長旅屋詐欺先生 二

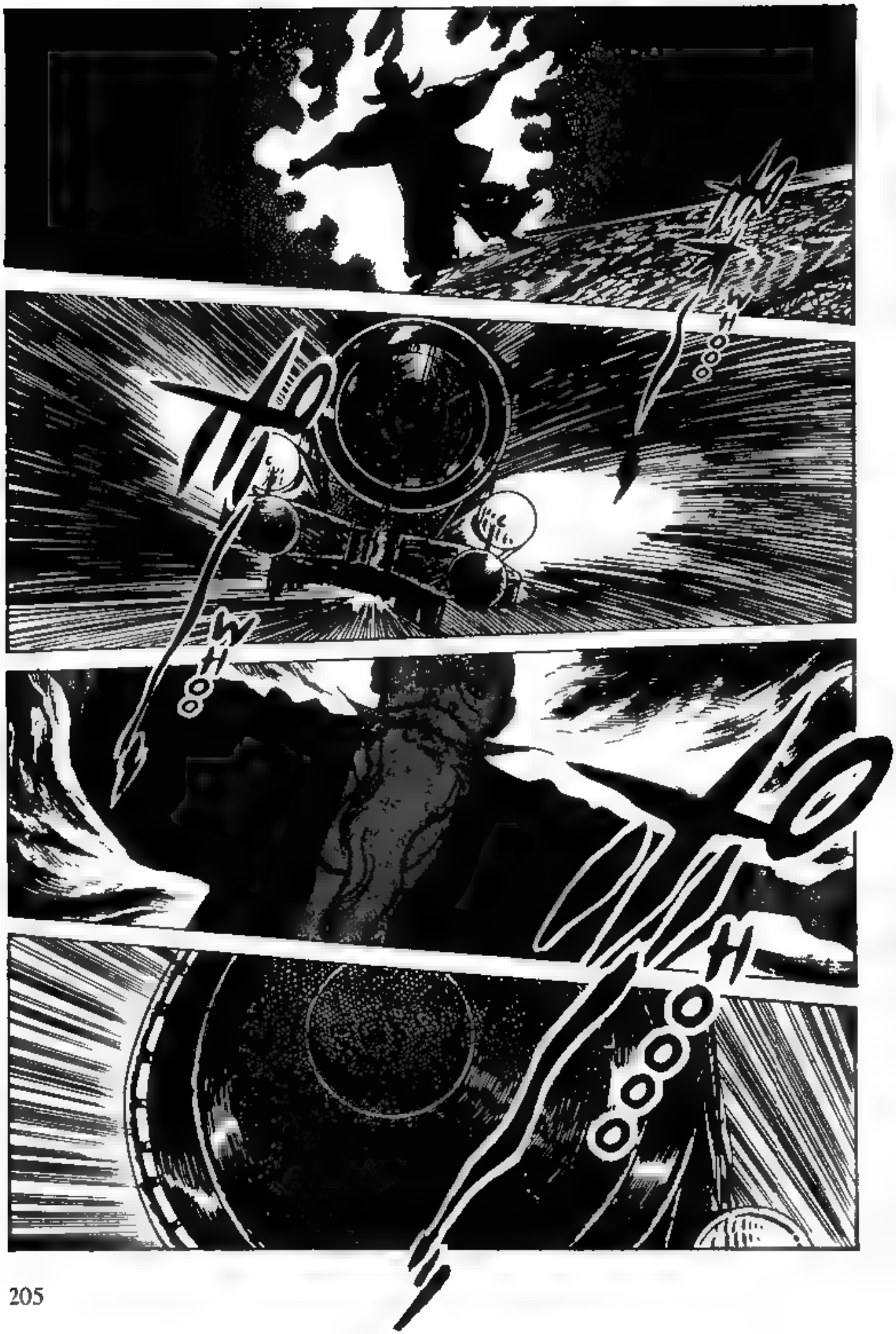
EPISODE 11
MASTER
CROOK,
THE
WANDERER,
PART 2

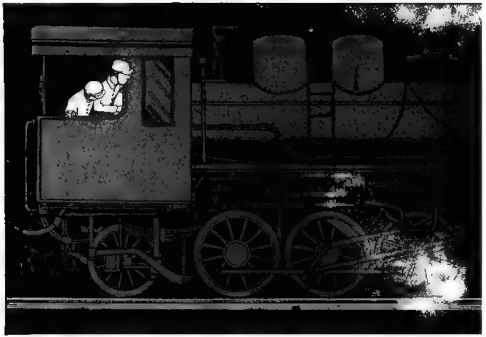


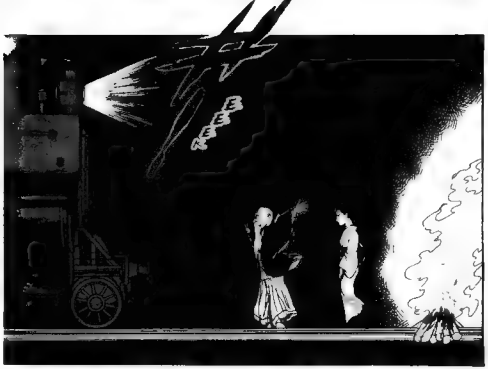

ZIP IT! JUST SHUT UP AND HELP.
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, SIR?

OH.
I'M BURNING. MY WHOLE BODY IS ABLAZE WITH CREATIVE ENERGY.
Y-YOU MEAN..
THE TRAIN WILL COME ANYTIME NOW. I'M HEADING BACK TO TOKYO.
WHOOOO
I'M GOING TO WRITE A MASTER-PIECE!
OH, SIR...

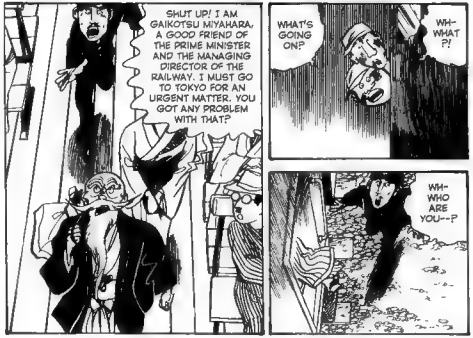
IT WILL BE ENTITLED SYURA YUKI HIME.

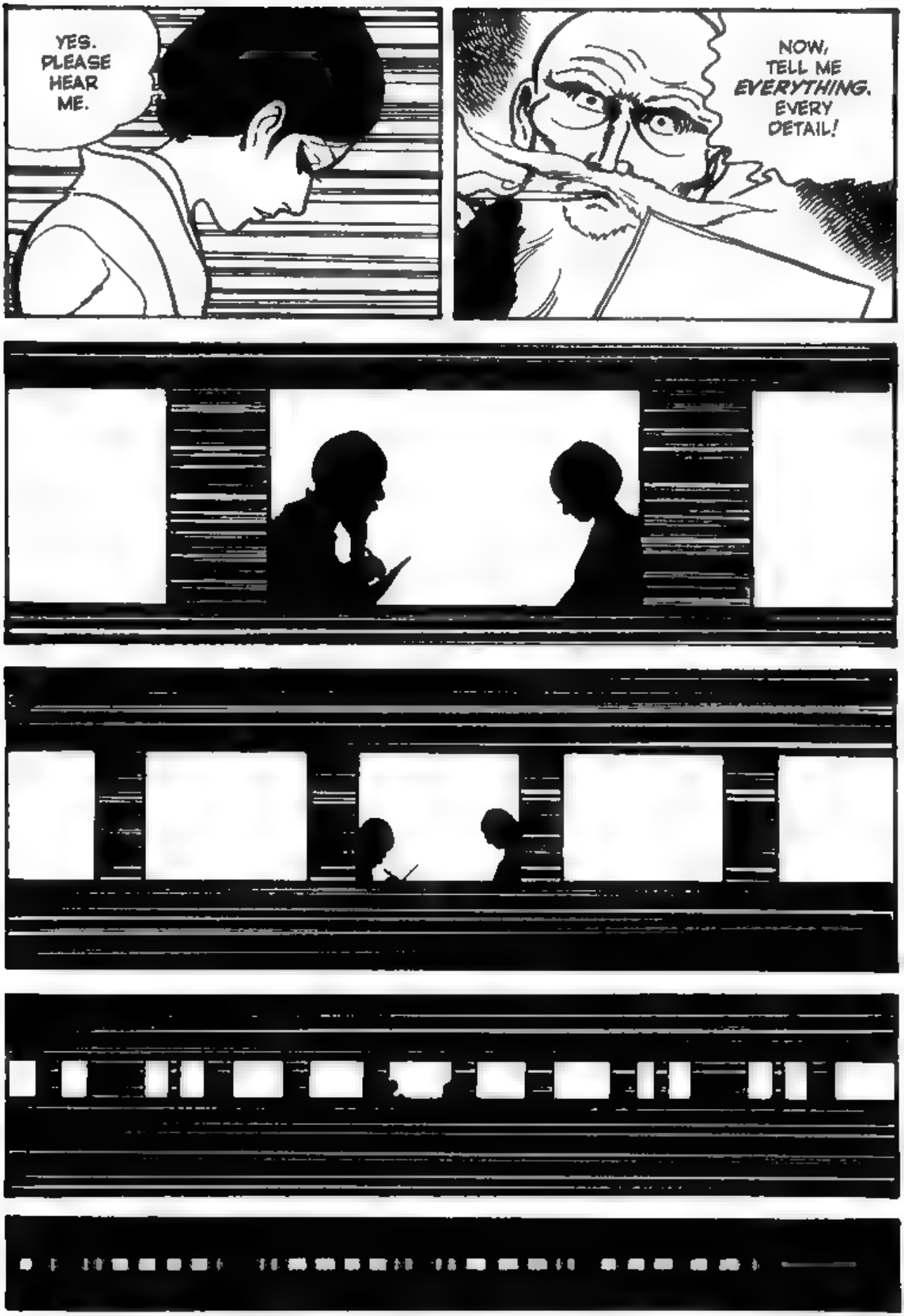

WHOOO
WHOOO
HHH



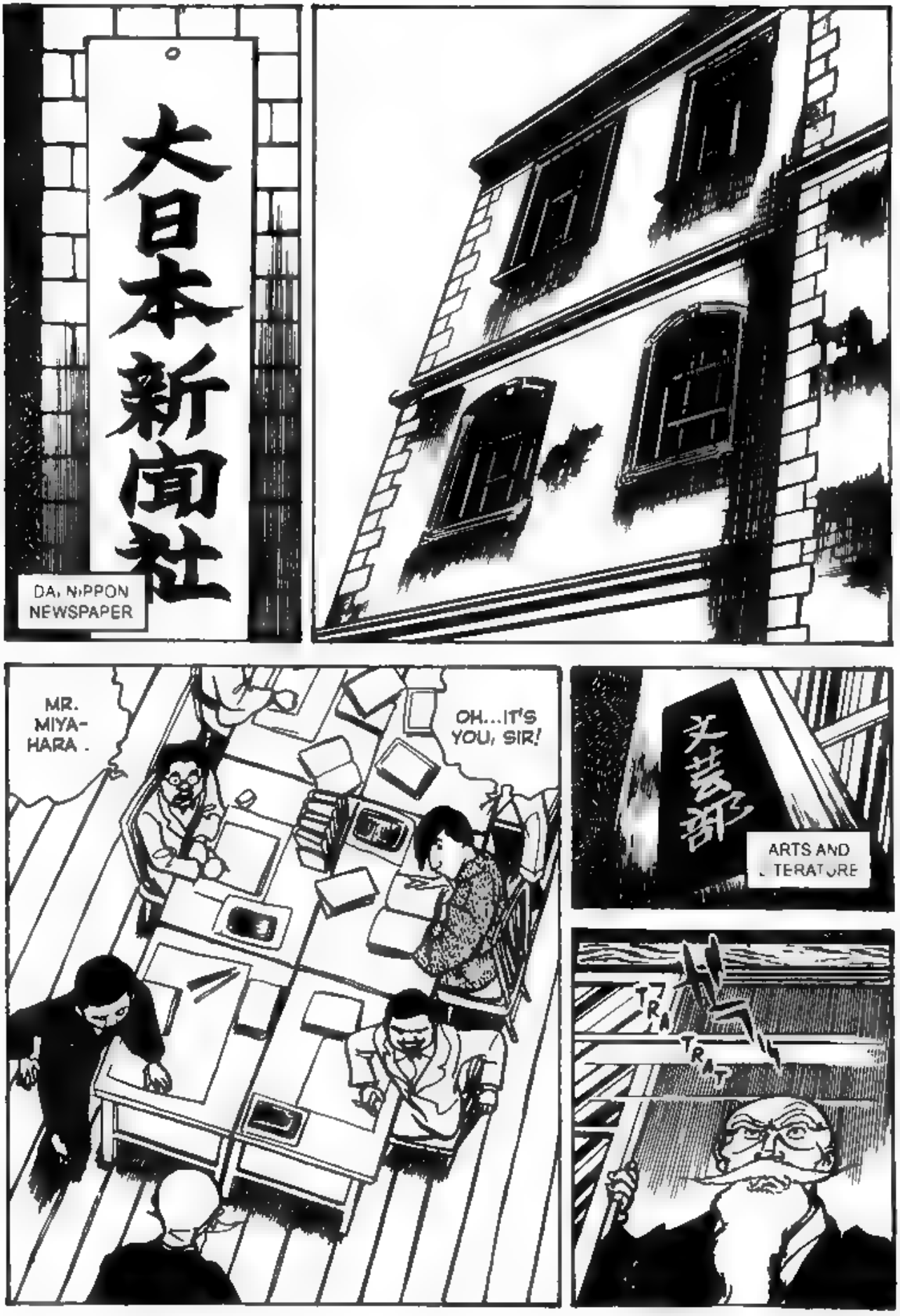

BEEK

Y-YES, SIR.
SHOW ME TO AN UNOCCUPIED SEAT!
GET ME A PIECE OF PAPER AND WRITING MATERIAL THEY'RE IN THERE.


SHUT UP! I AM GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA, A GOOD FRIEND OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE RAILWAY. I MUST GO TO TOKYO FOR AN URGENT MATTER. YOU GOT ANY PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WH-WHAT?!
WH-WHO ARE YOU--?

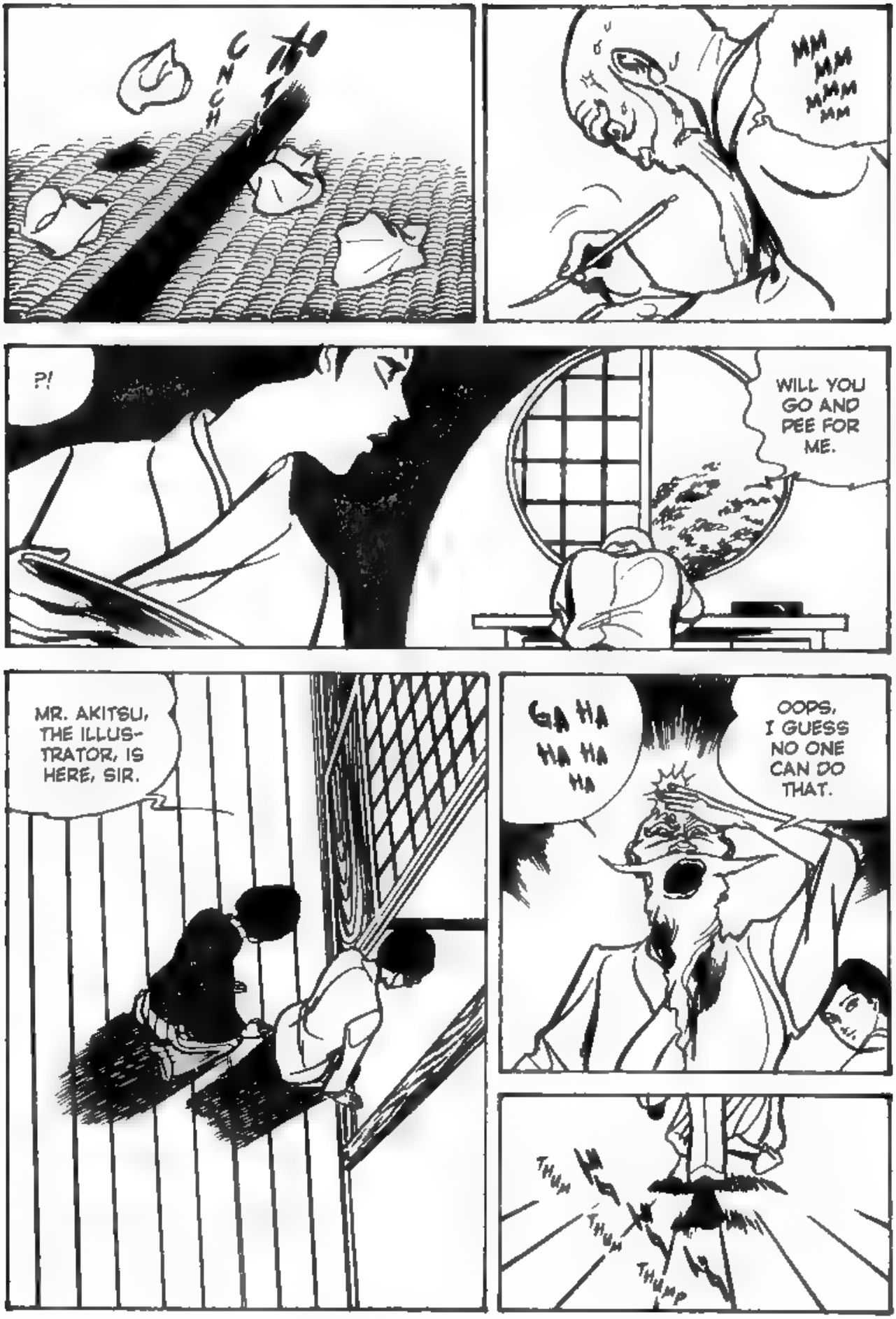

YES. PLEASE HEAR ME.
NOW, TELL ME EVERYTHING. EVERY DETAIL!

YES, SIR.
FASTER! RUN FASTER!
GARA
GARA
GARARA
B-BUT THAT'S IMPOS--
YOU IDIOT! RUN WITHOUT SHAKING.
FASTER! FASTER!


大日本新聞社
DAI NIPPON NEWSPAPER
MR. MIYA-HARA.
OH...IT'S YOU, SIR!
文芸部
ARTS AND LITERATURE
TRA
TRAT

YOU MEAN IT?
R-REALLY?!
I'M GOING TO WRITE A NOVEL, AN INCREDIBLE NOVEL!
YES, OF COURSE! MORE THAN HAPPY TO!
BUT YOU HAVE TO RESERVE ONE WHOLE PAGE.
...COMMISSION AKIAKI AKITSU, THE BEST PORTRAIT ARTIST IN JAPAN.
ABOUT THE ILLUS-TRATIONS...
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE MY LAST NOVEL, A MASTERPIECE!
Y-YES! RIGHT AWAY, SIR!

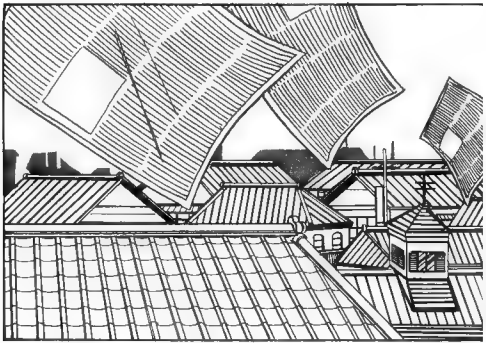
外骨庵
HERMITAGE OF GAIKOTSU
YES.
TEA!
CRNCH!

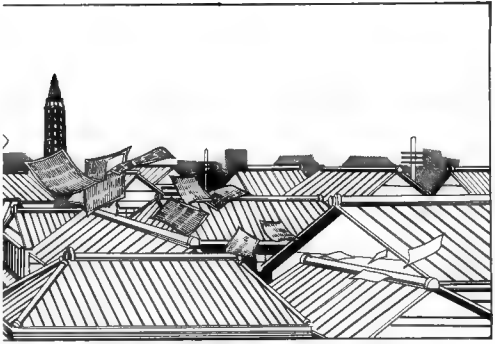

MM MM MMM MM
?!
WILL YOU GO AND PEE FOR ME.
MR. AKITSU, THE ILLUS-TRATOR, IS HERE, SIR.
HA HA HA HA HA
OOPS, I GUESS NO ONE CAN DO THAT.
THUM
THUM
THUMP

THIS WOMAN IS THE MODEL.
YES.
YOU SAID YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF YOUR MOTHER, RIGHT?
Y-YES, I WILL, SIR.
HURRY UP AND DRAW!
IN... INCREDIBLE! ER... LET ME SEE.
MMMMM. SYURA YUKI HIME...
AND HERE'S EPISODE TWO.
HERE'S THE DRAFT FOR EPISODE ONE.
THUMP!
THUMP

HMM. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET UNDRESSED.
WISS
FLUP
MMMM.

I'LL WORK ON THE SCENE WITH PRISON GUARDS AND MONKS.





修羅雪姫

作 宮原外骨

SYURA YUKI HIME
BY
GAIKOTSU MIYAHARA

■ MASTER CROOK, THE WANDERER / THE END ■

Benzaiten

A river-deity, she came to be the goddess of everything that flows: words (and knowledge, by extension), speech, eloquence, and music.

Eiichi Shibusawa

(1840–1931) Visited Europe to attend the world exposition in Paris and was deeply inspired by the capitalist economy of Europe. He was greatly instrumental in Japan's transition from a feudal system to a modern capitalist economy.

geta

A wooden-soled shoe worn by the Japanese.

iainuki

Iai is a skill by which one quickly draws a sword and strikes the target right on while one is in a sitting position. Iainuki refers to a display of such skill.

Imose no Kadomatsu

A saga of forbidden love between a merchant's daughter and one of her father's apprentices. The lovers successfully thwart their elders, but not without bloodshed.

Issunboshi

In Japanese mythology, a sage or priest of one inch in height. He traveled on water in a rice bowl, paddling with a chopstick. He defeated two demons with a needle.

Ishidomaru

Subject of a tragic story about the futility of the mortal world.

Ishikawa Goemon

(1558-1594) A famous Japanese thief put to death after failing to assassinate Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Sentenced to death by being boiled alive along with his young son. Legends say he attempted to hold his son above the water as long as he could. A large iron kettle-shaped bathtub is called a *Goemon-buro* after him. He is the subject of many *kabuki* plays.

Kanzeon

The bodhisattva of compassion, commonly known as the goddess of mercy.

kappa

Kappa are mythical creatures, water imps found in Japanese folklore.

Kihachiro Okura

Together with Eiichi Shibusawa, he participated in establishing the Rokumeikan, Imperial hotel, and Imperial theatre.

komo nanbanjin

"Red-haired foreigners."

Ohan and Choemon

One of the most famous love stories in *bunraku* (Japanese puppet theater) is the love of the young girl Ohan for her middle-aged neighbor Choemon, finally culminating in a love suicide between the two.

Oshichi & Kichiza

Oshichi was a sixteen-year-old girl, daughter of a vegetable store owner, living in the district of Hongo in Edo. In 1681 Oshichi fell in love with a young priest (Kichiza) whom she met at his temple while seeking shelter from a large fire. Hoping to see him again, she set fire in 1682 to her own home, causing a massive blaze that destroyed a huge section of Edo. She was arrested, tried, and condemned to be executed for arson. She was burned alive to pay for her crime. Yaoya Oshichi became a legend and a leading character in several *kabuki* plays.

Osome and Hisamatsu

A story about the forbidden love of a wealthy merchant's daughter (Osome) and an apprentice (Hisamatsu). The story sadly ends in a love suicide.

shindo munenryu

"*Shindo*" is made up of kanji characters "god + road/way" and "*munenryu*" is "empty + mind + style."

Shuntokumaru

The story of a man being wrongfully slandered, cast out from society, and then living as a poor, wandering priest until one day while displaying his pure piety, he is recognized and saved by his father.

GLOSSARY

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